

And they sell off into sunset

Paisley escapes Belfast assassination attempt

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Rev Ian Paisley escaped an attempt to assassinate him in a car when the Irish Republican Army fired a single shot at a police car taking him home in Belfast. Mr Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, was being driven from the BBC studios where he had appeared in a tea-time radio programme, when a shot from a high-velocity rifle was fired at the car in the Bridge Street, in the Larkfield area of the city. No one was injured. The shot missed the car and hit the wall near by. Mr Paisley said he heard the shot. The police in the car got on the radio and reported to their base that a high-velocity shot had been fired at the car. He said he believed the gunman was watching for him on his journey from the BBC. Last night police had still to find the bullet which Mr Paisley aimed had lodged in the wall. Asked why he should have been attacked, he said: "I think probably what has happened is that the republicans realize now that I am in a position, because of being elected leader of the Ulster people, to mobilize men—men who will defend themselves and their families. The fact that they felt they must attack me and try to kill me shows that I am being effective."

As with many politicians in Ulster, security at Mr Paisley's home is heavy, with a permanent Royal Ulster Constabulary guard. He travels everywhere in a police car.

Almost two hours after the attack at about 5.30 pm, the NLA claimed responsibility and said the gunman was ready in a safe house. The group was responsible for murdering Mr Airey Neave outside the Houses of Parliament.

The RUC was examining yesterday whether any law had been broken in the attack. Mr Paisley made on Thursday about recruiting a Protestant defence force.

The investigation was launched after claims that he came close to being killed in the attack when he was in the car with 1,000 people at Six Mile Cross, Co. Tyrone, that recruiting would start soon for the force which would stand up to the IRA. "We have a choice to make. Shall we allow ourselves to be murdered or shall we go out and kill the killer?" he said.

Unless the British Government went into republican hotbeds to "flush them out", action would have to be taken. Although careful to say that such things would occur only if something else did not happen, Mr Paisley was strongly criticized by Mr John Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, who said his words were nothing but incitement.

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said: "I do not know anything was done which



Applause from the Royal Box during the women's singles final at Wimbledon: Front row (left to right): Prince Michael of Kent, the Duchess of Gloucester, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Duke of Kent, Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burgess (chairman of the All England Lawn Tennis Club), the Duchess of Kent and Lady Diana Spencer.

Mandlikova slump gives Lloyd title

By Rex Bellamy

The first two Wimbledon championships were decided yesterday. Chris Lloyd beat Hana Mandlikova 6-2, 6-2 in a disappointing women's singles final and Peter Fleming and John McEnroe, the 1979 champions, regained the men's doubles title by beating Bob Lutz and Stan Smith 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

Mrs Lloyd, aged 26, has never been beaten before the semi-final round during any of her 10 appearances at Wimbledon. Champion three times and runner-up four times, she totally outclassed Miss Mandlikova, aged 19, who was obviously inhibited by the emotional stress of playing her first Wimbledon final.

In the first all-American men's doubles final since 1949, Fleming and McEnroe reversed the result of last year's Wimbledon United States final by beating Lutz and Smith.

McEnroe was fined \$750 (about £375) for his behaviour during a doubles match with the Admiralty brothers on Wednesday. The court heard that McEnroe had accused a line judge, Ragbir Majan, of being biased in favour of the Indians. An additional fine of \$2,500 for "aggravated behaviour" has been recommended.



Champion again: Mrs Lloyd with the Challenge Trophy.

400 Old Masters saved for nation

By Martin Huckerby

The greatest art bequest of recent decades in Britain, the Seilern collection of 400 Old Master paintings and drawings, has been secured for the nation by an unusual tax arrangement announced by the Government yesterday.

To ensure that the collection remained in Britain, the Government has agreed to meet the tax liabilities of the heirs of Count Antoine Seilern. The cost of the arrangement to the Government is about £600,000; the value of the collection which now passes to the Courtauld Institute is perhaps £50m.

When the collection goes on display at the institute's galleries in Woburn Square, London, on July 17—outraging much of the Courtauld's existing collection in the process—it will be as if Louisa had gained a great new art gallery.

Few of the 124 paintings and about 60 drawings going on display in two weeks have been seen in public for many years. They include about 30 oils by Rubens and six drawings by Michelangelo, as well as works by Breughel, Leonardo, Tiepolo, Dürer, Rembrandt, Bellini, Tintoretto and Cézanne.

It had been assumed that the only difficulty concerning the bequest from Count Seilern, a collector and art historian who died in 1978, would be finding sufficient space to display the works. The Courtauld is negotiating with the Government about moving into Somerset House, which could house both the existing collections and the new works.

However, Mr Dennis Farr, the director of the institute, said yesterday that Count Seilern's will contained a "foreclosure clause" with a series of conditions.

A few of the pictures and other objects from the Count's collection had been bequeathed to his family, and thus tax debts arose.

The family were unwilling to pay the tax when such a vast collection was being offered to the nation, but if works had been sold from the collection to meet the tax liabilities, the terms of the will could have meant the bequest to the Courtauld falling through.

Mr Farr, Chancellor, Minister for the Arts, arranged for the Government to accept six drawings from the collection, two by Michelangelo and four by Breughel, in lieu of tax, but agreed that those pictures would remain with the rest of the collection.

Count Seilern, who was born in England, came from an Austrian family, although his wealth originated from his American grandmother.

Even after moving the institute's offices into new premises there will be insufficient room at the Courtauld to display the complete collection; virtually all the paintings will be on show, but only a selection of the 288 drawings.

During the exhibition, which will run until September or October next year, the Courtauld's impressionist and post-impressionist paintings will remain on view, but other collections, including such Old Masters as Goya, are going into store, with viewing only by appointment.

Police injured in Southall riot

By Staff Reporters

Clashes broke out between rival gangs of skinheads and Asian youths in Southall, west London, last night and several policemen were reported injured as youths hurled stones and petrol bombs.

The police attempted to control the situation by using tear gas and riot shields, but they were set on by the gangs. At least two cars were set on fire and the windscreen of a fire engine was smashed.

The trouble started as several coaches carrying skinheads made their way to the Ham-brough Tavern, a public house in the Broadway in Southall, to attend a concert by a skinhead band.

According to first reports, the skinheads started the trouble by attacking an elderly Asian woman, tormenting Asian youth and smashing windows.

The police attempted to intervene, but a petrol bomb was thrown and the rioting spread rapidly.

As police brought out riot shields several hundred Asian youths hurled bricks, bottles and several petrol bombs. One policeman was seen being carried injured into a shop and there were reports of other minor injuries.

There was an unsuccessful attempt to set fire to a petrol station, but two cars in a showroom next to the public house were set alight.

Police called for reinforcements and the Broadway, the main street in the predominantly Asian suburb, was sealed off.

Several hundred rioting youths forced the police to retreat for about 200 yards under a shower of missiles. Two fire engines were called to deal with the blaze at the showroom and one had its windscreen smashed as it was driven through the crowd.

Fourteenth Labour MP to join SDP

By Our Political Staff

Mr James Wellbeloved, MP for Bexley, Erith and Crayford, last night became the fourteenth MP to desert Labour's ranks and join the Social Democratic Party.

He will tell his local constituency party that it was no longer compatible with his political convictions for him to continue as a member of the party, let alone as a Labour MP. However, in saying that for the remainder of this Parliament he would be discharging the responsibilities he accepted at his election, he is ruling out an early by-election.

His decision will come as no surprise to his close colleagues who have been aware for some time of his concern at the Labour Party's leftward drift.

Mr Wellbeloved, aged 54, a right winger who was Under-Secretary of State, RAE, in the last Labour government, has always seemed a likely recruit for the SDP.

The move of the Labour Party towards unilateral nuclear disarmament has obviously been one of the reasons for his growing disenchantment. Recently he described the party conference decision last year in favour of unilateralism as "lunatic, a re-

mark which is known to have upset his constituency party.

The local party had been about to start its reselection process two months ago but postponed it because Mr Wellbeloved was ill. It had recently invited him to explain his intentions.

In a letter to his constituency party he says: "Having spent many years in the Labour Party, it is with profound regret that I have come to the conclusion that it is no longer compatible with my political convictions or, in my belief, compatible with the interests of our country for me to continue as a member of the party, let alone as a Labour MP."

Developments in the field of party policy are such that I am bound to tell you that in my opinion the return of a government committed to such policies would have grave implications to us all."

Mr Wellbeloved was one of only six Labour MPs who last week voted for the Representation of the People Bill, on a one of the reasons for his growing disenchantment. Recently he described the party conference decision last year in favour of unilateralism as "lunatic, a re-

Defiant Heath says he will not be stopped from speaking out

By Philip Webster, Political Staff

Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister, continued his defiance of the Conservative Party yesterday, saying he would not be stopped from speaking out.

Referring to the intolerance which he said had spread to the Conservative Party in recent years, Mr Heath said: "Either you agree with everything and you just become a lackey, in which case you will be despised as a lackey, or you have contrary views and express them, without in any way indulging in personalities, in which case you are disloyal and 'wet' and ought to be chucked out."

This was an experience he had never known in the Conservative Party. When he was in the Social Democrats, "I have absolutely no intention of getting out."

He went on: "I object to the whole level of political discussion at the moment, that there must never be a 'wet' or 'dry' or 'so on' in this childish. Why cannot we discuss the merits of these things instead of trying to encapsulate them in words like 'wet', 'dry' or 'U-turn'?"

In probably his strongest criticism to date, he added: "If a Government finds that circumstances change when it is in operation, it is not stupid to say we must not change anything which we have been doing or which we planned five years ago."

Mr Heath, interviewed by Jimmy Young on BBC Radio, repeated his earlier comments that businessmen found the Government's economic policy "unacceptable". They were baffled by the Government's First they were told that companies and in particular nationalized industries could

not be subsidized; yet some were receiving enormous subsidies.

They were told that Government borrowing was supposed to be at a certain figure, then they found it was out by billions of pounds. Was it important or not? They were told the exchange rate was to be allowed to float; then they heard that the Bank of England had stepped in to prevent it sinking further.

In another call for a consensus approach, Mr Heath criticized certain MPs and ministers for the "hardline attitude they had taken to the trade unions, or for trying to find scapegoats or an alibi, as he termed it. They would never get better cooperation from the unions or increased productivity if they constantly bombarded trade union leaders with criticism.

There must be general agreement between employers, trade unions, the financial institutions, and the Government on how the economy was to be run.

Putting forward his own programme of action, Mr Heath said at world level measures should be taken to "recreate" the world economy, by encouraging the oil-exporting countries to put their money into investment rather than leaving it in the banks. The response should be encouraged to invest in Europe and so provide jobs.

The Government had to adopt an expansionist rather than a restrictive policy so that industry would start to grow. It would not invest until it knew there would be demand for its goods.

Inside the Ayatollah's Iran

ombs in Tehran, chanting obs in the streets, the mullahs in power. Will the apparently endless turmoil in Iran lead to civil war?

no man better placed than any to explain Iran from the inside is Muhammad Heikal, the distinguished Egyptian journalist and author. Former editor of the Cairo daily *Al-Ahram*, Heikal, nephew of Nasser, Heikal knows the inside of the Islamic world with a Westerner's respect. He has followed the turbulent events in Iran, gaining entrance to a world closed to

Eight Polish ministers dismissed

Warsaw, July 3.—Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, arrived here today a few hours after the Polish Government had announced the reshuffle in response to the country's crippling economic crisis.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish Prime Minister, announced in Parliament that he was dropping eight ministers, appointing five new ones and moving four others.

The reshuffle comes just over a week before an emergency Communist Party congress that is expected to legitimize many of the reforms introduced since last summer's strikes.

Soon after his arrival Mr Gromyko met Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Polish party leader. Tomorrow he will meet the Central Committee.

Polish officials believe the visit will be brief and friendly. However, Mr Gromyko is expected to communicate Moscow's concern over recent developments here, particularly the election of liberal delegates to the party congress, and what Moscow sees as a breakdown in law and order.

Mr Gromyko is the first senior Soviet official to come to Poland since the Soviet Communist Party sent a letter to its Polish counterpart stating that counter-revolutionary forces might try to eliminate orthodox communism at the emergency

party congress, which begins on July 14.

The Polish leadership will hope to persuade Mr Gromyko that Moscow has nothing to fear from the congress.

Today's government reshuffle is the first big shake-up since last February, when General Jaruzelski was appointed Prime Minister.

The Ministry of Agriculture was merged with the Ministry of Food; Energy with Mining, Light Industry with Chemicals; and Metallurgy and the Ministry of Machine Industry with Heavy Machine Industry.

At the same time the Maritime Economy Department was separated from the Foreign Trade Ministry, emphasizing the importance Poland places in using exports to try to avoid domestic disruption and foreign debt.

Nearly all the posts affected in the reshuffle were in the economic sector. General Czeslaw Piotrowski, the Army's deputy chief technical inspector, takes over the Mining and Energy Ministry. Mr Jan Kuapik heads the new Chemical and Light Industry department.

The other appointments are: Mr Zbigniew Szalajda, Metallurgy and Machine Industry; Mr Jerzy Wojciech, Food (as well as retaining the agricultural portfolio); and Mr Jerzy Nawrocki, Higher Education.

Burmah loses £1,000m case against Bank

Burmah Oil's £1,000m case against the Bank of England over its 1975 BP shares deal, believed to be the largest civil case brought in the United Kingdom, was yesterday dismissed by a High Court judge.

This claim was that Burmah's deal for the sale of its 20 per cent holding in BP to the Bank for £179m was unfair.

Leading article, page 15; Business News, page 19.

Fooled by a spy

The Austrian Government is angry about the discovery that a Czechoslovak who was granted political asylum as a dissident spent four years in Vienna as a spy before disappearing. He had claimed to be a member of the Charr 77.

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Belvoir clash

Mr Joseph Gormley, the miners' leader, said Mr Michael Heseltine told him no decision had been reached about mining in the Vale of Belvoir when the minister had made up his mind to recommend shelving the scheme.

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Cartier raid

An armed gang escaped from Cartier in London with jewelry valued at about £1.5m but missed a £4m collection which the police believe was their target.

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Trouble at Test

Spectators threw cushions when the umpires abandoned the early in the second Test match at Lord's. Australia are 10 for none in reply to England's first innings total of 311.

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British Gas will be told to sell showrooms

By Our Political Staff

A decision to direct the British Gas Corporation to sell its high street showrooms has been taken by the Government and details of the terms are likely to be announced next week by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs.

There are about 800 showrooms selling appliances, mainly cookers, worth about £200m a year, but taking cash from customers, including payment for gas supply, to a value of over £800m a year. The capital value of the sites is unofficially estimated at anything up to £30m.

There are some 2,000 privately-owned sales outlets for equipment, but the gas yards have between 80 and 90 per cent of the market.

British Gas, whose chairman, Denis Rooke, has been insisting the Government's plans, says that about 3,000 staff are employed in its showrooms, and that about 30,000 staff in maintenance and servicing depend on them.

The General and Municipal Workers' Union and the National Association of Local Government Officers have urged the Government that it is committed to industrial action against closure of showrooms.

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Bombarded Brixton police sang to raise morale

Police officers being bombarded with bricks and missiles in the Brixton riots started singing to keep up their spirits as they sheltered behind plastic shields, the Scarman inquiry in London heard yesterday.

One of the policemen, Police Constable Roger Fuller, said: "I have never been in the situation before where you were scared and did not want to show it. One chap from Z Division started singing, and for some reason, everyone joined in. It kept our spirits up."

Police Constable Fuller, aged 31, said the police were heavily outnumbered and nine out of every 10 people throwing stones were black. They were throwing bricks, shouting and overturning a car. We had a few dustbin lids and were just dodging. Every time I looked round, a police officer went down, and we ended up with about half our number. I have never been so scared of losing my life. They were not like a normal crowd in a demo.

"Here the crowd was out to injure or kill you," he said. Some ripped up corrugated iron on a building site, and others

started a bombardment of bricks.

"A black man and a white man appeared to be organizing parties to go on the site, others to throw and others to overturn cars. They were doing a very good job. Police Constable Fuller told the inquiry. He said the rioters sheltered behind the numerous overturned cars which had been set on fire.

Shells were eventually issued, and Police Constable Fuller was in the front line of the cordon. However, many officers, such as CID and traffic police, were not trained to use them, he said.

"Properly used, a shield is an advantage for your own protection; but people not used to them were using them to defend themselves only, and not others in the cordon. Eventually they got together so tightly we were like a solid wall and could not move backwards or forwards."

Police Constable Fuller said they had not been trained to use shields standing still. Petrol bombs were exploding with petrol running down the front of the shield. One officer was set on fire.

"When the crowd saw we were a brick wall, Aunt Sallies

Wide range in costs of council services

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

Large variations in the cost of providing services between one local authority and another are shown in a statistics document published yesterday by the Local Government Commission of Public Finance and Accounts (Cipfa).

Comparing the level of council house rents as a proportion of the cost of providing council housing, the statistics show that in inner London the average proportion in 1979-80 was 23 per cent, in outer London 40 per cent. Greater London 25 per cent, in metropolitan district councils 52 per cent, in non-metropolitan authorities 55 per cent in England and 54 per cent in Wales.

For the same year, the average ratio of secondary education per pupil was £981 in inner London, £705 in outer London, £518 in the metropolitan area, £513 in non-metropolitan areas in England and £647 in Wales.

Launching the book, which was produced with the Department of the Environment, Mr Noel Hepworth, director of Cipfa, said the statistics could never provide all the answers, "but it is hoped that this new book will encourage those who are or who wish to be involved in local government to ask the pertinent questions."

For a £9 service fee, Cipfa will compare an individual authority's spending with other authorities nearby, or with comparable ones.

(Local Government Comparative Statistics 1981, Cipfa, Stationery Office, London SW1E 6HQ, £12.)



PROTEST DOWN UNDER

More than 20,000 people demonstrated in three New Zealand cities yesterday against the proposed South African rugby tour, although this youngster in Auckland appears to be making an upside-down protest. Scuffles broke out in Wellington, but no arrests were made. Police said 10,000 people marched in Auckland, 7,000 in Wellington and nearly 4,000 in Christchurch. The Government has refused to prohibit the tour, due to begin later this month, but it has urged the New Zealand Rugby Football Union to reconsider its invitation. Legal action is, however, being taken in two separate courts in an attempt to halt the Springbok tour. A writ has been filed in the High Court declaring that the Government would be acting against international law by issuing visas to the South African team. The suit has been lodged under a 1965 United Nations convention, which was ratified and signed by New Zealand. The second legal action is being taken under a previously unused 1919 law, citing the undesirable immigrants exclusion Act.

Crimean holiday means Brezhnev will miss Carrington visit

From Michael Rinyon, Moscow, July 3

President Brezhnev today left Moscow for his summer holiday, which he is expected to spend as usual near Yalta in the Crimea. He was seen off at the airport by members of the Politburo and other party officials.

His departure means that he will not be seeing Lord Carrington, who arrives here on Sunday evening for a one-day visit to discuss his proposal for an international conference on Afghanistan.

The Foreign Secretary is expected, however, to meet Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, who today left for Warsaw on a visit widely regarded as a final attempt by the Kremlin to persuade the Poles to adopt policies acceptable to Moscow at the Polish Communist Party Congress.

This congress begins on July 14, and today the Soviet Army newspaper Red Star quoted Soviet and Polish Army officers on joint manoeuvres in Poland as saying they were alarmed by the political situation in the country.

It said they discussed last month's warning letter sent to the Polish party by the Soviet party's Central Committee, and expressed their worries in their conversations. But the paper also said the soldiers were confident they would be able to defend the achievements of communism.

The decision to send Mr Gromyko to Poland so shortly before the congress is seen by Western analysts as a hopeful sign that Moscow has decided to let the congress go ahead in the hope that the Polish party will be able to establish its authority within the country.

Foreign policy is one of the few areas in which the Russians still see eye to eye with the Poles, and a visit by Mr Gromyko would seem less ominous than one by a senior Soviet ideologist.

But the Foreign Minister is likely to emphasize to the Polish leadership the security obligations of Poland as a member of the Warsaw Pact.

He is also likely to take soundings in Warsaw to see at what level the Russians should be represented at the congress, which they privately urged the Poles to postpone. Moscow does not want the spectacle of a senior member of the Soviet leadership being present at a congress that took decisions unacceptable to the Russians.

Poland is likely to dominate the discussion, which Mr Brezhnev has this summer in the Crimea with East European leaders. The tradition began several years ago for the Soviet leader to have private summit meetings with each of his colleagues from the Warsaw Pact.

But last year when Mr Gromyko, the former Polish leader, went to Yalta, he appears to have given Mr Brezhnev false reassurances that the labour unrest, then just beginning in Poland, could be easily dealt with.

RAMS GIVEN FREEDOM OF THE HILLS

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

The Government has decided to give rams the freedom of the Welsh hills for the first time in 25 years. From the end of this month they will no longer need permission from Government inspectors to mingle with ewes on unfenced land.

The Control of Rams Regulations 1981 were quietly enacted by the Ministry of Agriculture yesterday in an internal campaign against the wasteful use of Civil Service manpower.

It was decided in 1952 that legal controls were needed to prevent rams from one flock associating too closely with ewes of another.

Shepherds cannot tell readily when their ewes are on heat, and the Government wanted to make sure the hills would not be populated by unofficial cross-bred animals.

The Ministry has now consulted many organizations, including the Government's Farm Animal Welfare Council, and decided that "the industry's husbandry skills are now such that legislative controls are no longer necessary".

The 1952 law applies to parts of England, but not to Scotland.

Mayhew call for action on civil defence planning

From Ronald Kershaw, York

Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, told local authorities yesterday that spending on a sensible contingency plan for home defence against nuclear attack was fully justified and could not, and must not be ignored.

He was addressing delegates at the annual conference of the Association of Civil Defence Officers in York.

When asked what would happen to local authorities who refused to spend money on civil defence, he replied: "Wait and see."

Mr Mayhew said he was aware he said that in doubling the grant aid available to local authorities, the Government was inviting them to spend more of their ratepayers' money on civil defence when the financial restraints on all authorities were well recognized.

Mr Mayhew said: "Although the risk of war may be slight, the outcome if a nuclear attack should occur of even a conventional attack with today's technology, would be so dreadful that the expenditure of real resources on a sensible contingency planning is fully justified and that justification cannot, indeed must not, be ignored."

Government departments were having to find additional funds to improve civil defence out of existing cash limits.

Mr Mayhew said that civil defence critics often said that in the event of all-out war, any attempt to protect the population was futile.

He said: "Neither I nor my ministerial colleagues, nor our officials, ever make light of the effects of an all-out nuclear attack on this country. Millions of innocent people would die. There would be enormous suffering. But that is surely light years away from saying that nothing worthwhile could be done for those who survived—and on any reckoning they would number millions."

On the Government's civil defence programme, Mr Mayhew said an extra £4.5m was being spent between now and 1984-85 to accelerate the completion of the network of sub-regional headquarters. The wartime emergency communications network was to be refurbished and old equipment replaced at a cost of £5.1m.

Undertakings given on house sales

□ The Government has decided to introduce a five local authorities which has not followed its guidelines for selling council homes. They are Barking, Newham, Sheffield, Stoke-on-Trent and Wolverhampton.

Mr John Stanley, Minister for Housing, said in a House of Commons statement that the councils had given undertakings but he would continue to monitor carefully whether tenants experienced any difficulty.

The Government is still dissatisfied with the London Borough of Croydon's arrangements for implementing the right-to-buy legislation, and Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, will shortly announce whether he has decided to intervene.

Basque issue damper on Franco-Spanish accord

From Richard Wigg, Madrid, July 3

A new, though still fragile, beginning to better relations between Spain and France has resulted from yesterday's visit to Paris by Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Spanish Prime Minister.

The Basque terrorism problem, however, could still bring back the sour atmosphere, which characterised the Giscardian era of ambiguous promises not followed by any good-neighbourly acts.

Señor Calvo Sotelo, on his return here last night, still said he must understand the gravity of the issue of the extradition of Basque terrorists to face trial for crimes committed on Spanish soil.

The essential outcome of the trip lies in the promise Señor Calvo Sotelo believes he obtained from the French President and Prime Minister that they will do everything necessary so that France is no longer a safe base for terrorists to prepare for their actions in the Basque region and elsewhere in Spain.

Only after the two countries' Interior Ministers have met later this month in Madrid, and the Justice Ministers in Paris, will it be really settled whether Spain is to get effective police cooperation.

El País, the Madrid daily which most enthusiastically welcomed the left's victory in France, today carried an editorial on the subject. It said that if Paris does not give assistance, and as a result terrorists go on killing members of the armed forces, "very probably our Constitutional system will have been overthrown by force before the 1983 general elections."

On Spain's negotiations to join the EEC, the Prime Minister did not apparently advance things any more than did M Claude Cheveson, the French Foreign Minister, when he was here for talks early last month.

Señor Calvo Sotelo said last night that he hoped a green signal would come in the autumn for negotiations with the EEC on the vital agricultural and fishing chapters.

□ Mme Maya Picasso, daughter of the painter, has indicated she is willing to accept a majority verdict by the family to return "Guernica", her father's painting inspired by the civil war, to Spain.

Mme Picasso told El País today that in a recent reunion "our family has decided by a majority decision that Guernica should be transferred to Spain". The painting has been kept in the Museum of Modern Art in New York since after Franco's victory in the civil war.

Order goes out on P2 affair

From John Earle
Rome, July 3

Signor Flaminio Piccoli, secretary of the Christian Democrats, has written to the 34 party members whose names are on the P2 list asking them to make written declarations on their honour, that they had no connexion with the secret masonic group.

Those who do will be exonerated of any blame and their cases will be regarded as closed. Those unable to do so will be suspended from the party.

The 34 include 14 members of the Chamber of Deputies and two senators.

The declarations must be made within 10 days. The party directorate has stipulated that each man, besides denying any connexion with P2, must say that he has not made contributions to it and that he has not interceded on its behalf with any political or economic body.

He must also show that he has started legal proceedings against Signor Licio Gelli, the grand master, who has fled abroad, for falsely including him on the list of alleged members.

The P2 group, with nearly 1,000 names, has been found by a government commission of inquiry to be a secret association.

PARLIAMENT July 3 1981

Competition on ways to help disabled

COMMONS

The Department of Health and Social Security is to organize a competition as a way of recognising interesting new projects undertaken by voluntary organizations to enhance the quality of life for the disabled. This was announced in the Commons by Mr Hugh Rost, Minister of State for the Disabled, during a debate to mark the International Year of Disabled People.

He said the detailed criteria were best left to be settled by the panel of judges who had agreed to consider the entries.

He was pleased to say that Kit Aston, chairman of the English Voluntary Organizations Committee for the year had agreed to chair the judging panel and that Brian Rix of MENCAP and Elizabeth Fanshawe of the Disabled Living Foundation, together with Margaret Shore and Bill Utting of his department had agreed to be the panel. They would be announcing further details as soon as possible.

Mr Alfred Morris, Opposition spokesman on the disabled, said when he opened the debate that the British Government was the only one in the world to embark on the International Year of Disabled People by a gratuitous cut in the income of the disabled.

It was important that the IYDP was not a 365-day wonder but had an on-going effect. The aims of the year were to increase public awareness of the needs of the disabled. It was important to think in terms of the disabled family. The United Nations estimated that 25 per cent of the world's population were affected, directly or indirectly through the family, by the problems of disability.

Any society which failed to respond effectively to the needs of the disabled could expect a huge loss of human resources and a cruel waste of human potential.

There was a need to redistribute the resources in favour of disabled people within individual countries and between countries. The world was full of obscene inequalities of wealth, literacy, health, opportunity and life expectancy. There would never be a safe and stable world while there existed the gross and glaring inequalities which divided and disgraced the world today.

The resources were available to achieve a better life. Too much was spent on munitions and too little on the needs of peace. The problem was not one of resources but of political will and priorities.

There was need to help disabled people to live at home as fully integrated members of society as opposed to providing them in institutions. That made good sense economically as well as meeting one of the main aspirations of the disabled.

Never before had the Opposition been so entitled to argue for more resources for the disabled. In his five years as Minister for the Disabled, even at times when public expenditure was being cut back, there was rapidly increasing expenditure and new help for disabled people.

Most disabled people in Britain would be poorer at the end of

the year than at the beginning. Inability benefit had been cut by nearly 5 per cent in real terms for 650,000 people, whose working lives had been cut short by long-term sickness and disability. For a single person the cut was 50p a year and for a married couple it was £96.

This meant going without essentials, not luxuries. People were being hurt as a matter of deliberate action by a Government which had made the richest 5 per cent of taxpayers better off.

This cut was rightly seen as the unkindest cut of all but it was only one of the many attacks on the living standards of disabled people. There was also the five-fold increase in prescription charges and the effect on disabled people of the so-called simplification of the supplementary benefit scheme.

More severely disabled people would find themselves in hospital if the Government continued to enforce spending cuts on local authorities that could provide an alternative to hospitalization.

In finding somewhere to live and in seeking jobs, the disabled found themselves at the back of the two longest queues in Britain today.



Morris: Spending cuts hit the disabled.

A thimbleful of resources counted for more than a bucketful of promises.

A grievance of many of the disabled was the heavy economic burden imposed by the near doubling of VAT.

Mr Rost said they had to remember what the country could afford and what was available. At the end of the day, their priority as a nation must be to try and get the economy back on a sound basis. Until they earned money by increasing productivity and selling goods abroad, they would not have the cash they wanted to spend on all these desirable and necessary objectives.

It was impossible to contemplate the enormity of what was being done in this area without enduring a deep sense of frustration at the lack of current resources to do it.

Local authorities as a whole had responded to the Government's request to protect the most vulnerable sections of the community from whatever economies they made elsewhere. Current expenditure on personal social services was increasing by nearly 5 per cent, with most going on residential care for the young handicapped and the admission of homes.

Additional local authority support for the social services was being increased by 8 per cent in real terms.

Criticism should not disguise the fact that although the pace was not as fast as they would like, it was as fast as the economy at present permitted. The main problem was the lack of resources to make good the neglect and ignorance of centuries.

They still lived in the shadow

of more recent attitudes when disability, especially of a mental kind, was regarded as something shameful. Families affected tended to hide away what they considered to be their shame.

There had been a great drive in recent years to bring the mentally handicapped out of the large institutions into smaller community-based units. Since 1969, the number of mentally handicapped children in hospital had fallen from 7,100 to around 2,000. However, there was still about 15,000 adult mentally handicapped people in large hospitals who should not be there which was unacceptable.

They must ensure that public attitudes in the years ahead were expanding frontiers of knowledge in this area so that disabled people would enjoy the advantages of better education, as far as possible, and be enabled to participate in everyday human activities. It was precisely to do this that the United Nations declared 1981 as the International Year of the Disabled.

The British Government was a sponsor and a most willing signatory of that declaration. The motion was superfluous although it enabled them to review progress for the first half of the year.

So far, it has been a tremendous success with the voluntary organizations, public and media rising magnificently to the challenge. There was scarcely a town or village in the country which had not some activity or happening connected with the year.

This emphasis on the voluntary sector did not mean the Government did not have a role to play. Various ministers had outlined a whole range of activities and departments were considering their policies on disabled people.

They were sponsoring the setting-up of an international seminar on the prevention of disability which would be held at Leeds in 1982.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, had introduced a film scheme to assist the movement of mentally handicapped young people into the community. A new model of taxi to be introduced in 1983 would offer better access for disabled people.

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab) said that after the film The Minders and from time to time on other occasions there was a great public outcry about the conditions in which the mentally handicapped people lived. After a time the outcry died down. The reason was that people were affronted by the conditions and their consciences were disturbed. But because there was something about disabled people which was a bit off-putting, the public did not want to know. This was understandable but unacceptable.

Large mental institutions were undesirable places and the mentally handicapped should live in family homes or community homes where they were provided with a proper level of individual care.

He was greatly concerned about the number of children in mental hospitals. Although the figures seemed to show that their numbers were falling close analysis showed that once they were in they were not coming out and growing into adults and not showing up in the statistics for children.

Mr Paul Dean (North Somerset, C) said progress had been made in the 1970s, but there was a danger of losing the momentum in the 1980s and 1990s. The Community Development Fund had been built on allowance and service on service, but there was a need to stand back and look at the whole picture and draw together the various strands into a

comprehensive cash and care service designed to enable disabled people to live as much as possible as nearly as possible like able-bodied people.

This was the right time to set up a high-powered review, either through a royal commission or a committee of inquiry, to look at the progress of the past decade and chart a way forward for the next decade.

That would be a fitting British contribution to the International Year of Disabled People.

Mr Lewis Carter-Jones (Eccles, Lab) said the most severe cuts in the health services were going to be made in the areas of chronic disease and people who brought disabled people back into the community.

Mr David Emswiler (Norwich, North, Lab), a former Secretary of State for Social Services, said many local authorities were currently thinking what gifts they should give the Royal couple for their wedding.

He suspected Prince Charles, rather than receiving gifts of silver or gold, would be more interested in the disabled. They should not be made to feel, as has happened so often in the past, that they were the recipients of charity, but rather that they were full members of society who could play a useful role.

More progress should be made in education for both the physically and mentally handicapped. There should be legislation calling for more teachers with special skills. More priority should be given to integration, with encouragement from central Government.

The Government did not seem to accept that to give priority to the handicapped in education meant additional resources must be provided. Until they accepted this, little progress would be made, especially at a time of financial stringency.

Mr Laurence Pavitt (Brent, South, Lab) said that for the disabled means increased public expenditure. Cuts in the rate support grant had in many areas been disastrous for the disabled at a local level. Public expenditure could not be cut without harming those least able to cope with the cuts. The inevitable consequence of the lower RSG had been that the cut in social services meant greater hospitalization.

Mr Rost, replying to the debate, said despite stringent constraints on public expenditure, the Government had to take last year in abating the disability benefit, social security spending on the disabled at long-term sick had grown in real terms by 8 per cent over the past two years.

It was now running at £2,000m a year in cash payments. This was nothing for the Government to be ashamed of.

The Government's aim was to further reduce the number of permanent deaths and handicapped, and they had given high priority to this in the policy handbook Care in Action.

The debate ended.

In the Lords, the Disabled Persons (No 2) Bill was read the third time and the Commons amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Minerals) Bill were agreed to and the Zoo Bill was read the second time. The Committee stage.

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Likud-Labour coalition urged by party leader

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, July 3

Dr Joseph Burg, leader of the National Religious Party and the central figure in continuing negotiations over the formation of a new Israeli coalition, today called for a government of national unity including Labour and Likud.

Dr Burg's appeal comes as the laborious process of counting votes in last Tuesday's election continues. The latest figures show the two main parties tied with 48 seats each, but Likud officials remain optimistic that the Army vote may put them one ahead by the time the final results are published next Tuesday.

Speaking on Israel radio, Dr Burg said that after a cruel and very vicious election campaign, a coalition of the Labour opposition, the ruling right-wing Likud and the National Religious Party should run the country for 18 months before holding a new general election to produce a clear cut result.

Dr Burg took part in private discussions earlier this week with Mr Menachem Begin, leader of the Likud, and Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour Party leader. Neither is thought to be enthusiastic about his idea.

Political analysts are sceptical

about Dr Burg's plan because of the wide differences between the Likud and Labour on many key policy issues, including the economy, the occupied territories and involving Jordan in the peace process.

Questioned about these difficulties, Dr Burg replied: "On the main points—politics, defence, security and the economy—there could be a minimum programme accepted for the cooling off period before the next election, because there are not many variations possible in the situation we are living in."

Meanwhile, hectic behind-the-scenes bargaining over the formation of a new government continued, with Mr Begin remaining clear favourite to stay in office for a second term with parliamentary support from the National Religious Party, Agudat and Tami, the ethnic party which is now expected to win three seats.

Mr Ashraf Uzan, the deputy leader of Tami, today expressed a clear preference for supporting the Likud rather than Labour, the view held by the majority of party activists.

There is speculation that he might be offered the Agriculture portfolio, a post he held in the last Labour government.

Today Mr Peres met leaders of the ultra-orthodox Agudat block, whose support will be vital to any coalition which is to have a workable majority. Yesterday, the Agudat leadership met Mr Begin to present its coalition demands which will be hammered out at a newly formed committee.

The religious conditions are understood to be tough. They include the introduction of legislation to amend the Law of Return to specify that a Jew is either the child of a Jewish mother or one who has been converted only according to the Halacha (religious law).

The Agudat—now expected to win four seats—also wants much stricter laws on Sabbath work permits, limiting them to security workers or that on which lives are at stake.

The decision on which side the party will vote in the Knesset will be made by its ruling rabbis.

The complex political bargaining will continue well into next week and possibly beyond. A general conviction remains that Mr Begin will be the man asked by President Yitzhak Navon to form the next government.

But if that idea, the religious coalition remains in office with full powers.

Moscow tightens up laws on foreigners

From Michael Binyon, Moscow, July 3

The Soviet authorities have apparently begun a wide-ranging crackdown on contacts between Russians and foreigners, and in the past few weeks have introduced a series of measures to make it easier to watch and control foreigners.

These measures range from a new law which for the first time specifies the grounds on which a foreigner may be expelled from the Soviet Union, to a toughening of the laws on hooliganism that could be used against Russians visiting foreigners.

At the same time Soviet employees working for foreign organizations and embassies have been reminded to limit contacts to official business. A number of people thought to have overstepped the limits have recently been forced to leave their jobs.

The drive seems to be part of the new campaign to enforce ideological vigilance, and comes at a time when the authorities are clearly worried by propaganda subversion by the West as well as financial corruption and black market trading that often involves foreigners, especially Third World diplomats.

The new law on the "legal status of foreigners in the USSR" was promulgated at a recent session of the Supreme Soviet and is due to come into effect next year.

But many of the rights of foreigners—take a Soviet job, apply for health benefits, cheap holidays, and so on—are little needed by the relatively small community of resident foreigners, whose activities are watched by the KGB (security police) and a large number of administrative organs.

More significantly, the law seems to strengthen the grounds on which the authorities may prosecute or expel a foreigner. Some of the grounds include such hazy legal concepts as violating local standards of behaviour and way of life, or sowing discord among the people.

A foreign citizen can be expelled if his action threatens state security, or if he is essential to defend the rights of Soviet citizens, or if he "rudelessly broke the rules of conduct applicable to foreign citizens in the USSR, customs, hard currency or any other Soviet laws."

One article defines the movement and documentation of foreigners travelling in the country, and says malicious breaking of these rules will entail criminal responsibility.

By codifying these practices and giving them legal status, the law makes it easier to define unwelcome behaviour as a specific violation and to act more swiftly against foreigners.

The law comes at a time when new internal regulations have tightened public discipline and discouraged Soviet citizens from contacting foreigners. A new decree on hooliganism includes such things as swearing in public and violating social order, and this can be punished by 15 days summary imprisonment without trial or appeal.

The movement of foreigners within the country has recently been made more obvious by changing their car number plates. These were all previously black on white. But diplomats, distinguished for the first time from support staff, now have red plates and journalists have yellow plates, which can more quickly be differentiated by the police.

New customs regulations now forbid taking out of the country any work of art without special permission or any book printed in any language before 1975, including, for instance, paperbacks in English.

The regulation has been so strictly enforced in recent months that some foreigners leaving the country have been forced to leave behind paintings they themselves have done.

Two days ago a new regulation barred all foreigners except diplomats from using convertible currency coupons. This is seen as the first stage of a campaign to prevent Soviet citizens using shops trading in hard currency.

Israelis will get F16s despite review of deal

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, July 3

Both White House and State Department officials have insisted that no formal decision has been taken to send any F16 fighter-bombers to Israel.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the review insisted on June 10 to examine whether by bombing the Iraqi nuclear plant Israel had violated American law permitting arms sales only for defence, was not enough to allow the continuation of F16 sales.

The Administration has got itself into a difficult position. Its initial reaction to the bombing was to condemn it, a condemnation which was firm in a United Nations resolution.

To back up that condemnation further the United States initiated a review of the possible violation of the arms sale agreement and suspended delivery of four F16s due on June 12.

Officials, however, claimed that only those four aircraft were affected by the suspension, although common sense suggested that if the review were to conclude that Israel had violated United States law on arms sales it would be pointless to forbid the delivery of four aircraft while continuing to send more.

The Government was caught between its desire to send a message to the world, and more particularly to the oil producing Arab States, that it did not in

any way condone what Israel had done, and its equal desire not to do anything which would permanently harm Israel.

Suspension of the four F16s was essential to make the review appear to have meaning. The suspension, however, completed quickly, the question of further planned sales would rapidly complicate the issue.

That is just what has happened. In line with earlier statements a White House spokesman this week said that F16s due for delivery on July 17 were still planned to be shipped on time.

As a result the Administration had fallen into its own trap. It was suspending four and sending six.

Now officials are solidly behind the view that the review has to be complete before any sales go ahead and that the review will be finished in time for a decision to be made on the next planned shipment.

But no one believes that the review has any real meaning. The suspension of the four F16s was a token gesture and the review a device to satisfy those on Capitol Hill who were concerned that nothing might be done about a flagrant breach of attempts to prevent American weapons being used for aggression.

Leading article, page 13

Argentine torture claim denied

From Andrew McLeod, Buenos Aires, July 3

General Ramon Alberto Campos, the former police chief of Buenos Aires, has denied that he tortured Señor Jacobo Timmerman, a journalist arrested in 1977.

In his book *Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number*, the Argentine journalist who was stripped of his Argentine citizenship and deported after international appeals for his release, said General Campos had supervised his torture.

General Campos says in an interview in *Somos* magazine: "Everything he went through and all his statements, every exchange of opinion, was recorded. So there is no way I would commit the stupidity of torturing him."

General Campos said he had ordered Señor Timmerman's arrest because of his connections with Mr David Graiver, a financier who was part owner of *La Opinión* newspaper of which Señor Timmerman was editor, and who was suspected of being the Montonero guerrilla organization's banker.

Señor Graiver, who was also sought on an embezzlement charge in the United States, is presumed to have been killed in an air crash in Mexico in August, 1976.

The general said there were other reasons for Señor Timmerman's arrest. Under his editorship *La Opinión* had supported subversive organizations. "At one point there was a high percentage of journalists who were linked to Argentine or foreign subversive groups," he said.

The general also denied Señor Timmerman's claim that his cellmate had been killed. "I had lunch with his cellmate at his home only 10 days ago," he said.

Professor guilty of race hate

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, July 3

Professor Robert Faurisson, aged 52, of Lyons University, who acquired notoriety through his writings and statements denying the existence of gas chambers in German death camps during the war, was found guilty today of incitement to racial hatred and violence.

He was given a three months suspended sentence and fined 500 francs (about £45). He was also ordered to pay damages of 4,000 francs to the League against Racism, and of 6,000 francs to each of two other organizations, the Association of former Auschwitz concentration camp victims and the Movement against Racism, which had brought the case.

Professor Faurisson, whose lectures have been suspended to avoid demonstrations by students, said on the radio in November last year that the alleged massacres in gas chambers and the genocide of the Jews is part of one and the same lie, a gigantic political and financial racket for the benefit of Israel and international Zionism.

M. Charles Guillaume, the publisher of Professor Faurisson's latest book, *Memoir in defence against those who accuse me of falsifying history*, said the book contained an additional 2,000 francs for libel against Professor Leon Poliakov, the acknowledged authority in France on the Nazi treatment of the Jews, who was accused in the book of misinterpreting relevant documents.

The public prosecutor said in his summing up that "to deny the existence of the camps is to kill a second time those who died in this affair and to add to the suffering of the survivors and their families."

Marcos names Premier

From David Watts, Singapore, July 3

President Ferdinand Marcos launched his new French-style government today by naming Mr Cesar Virata as his Prime Minister.

Mr Virata, who holds the finance portfolio, was nominated by President Marcos's New Society Movement after the President had quashed a move to draft his wife, Mrs Imelda Marcos, to the post.

Mr Marcos, already governor of metropolitan Manila and Minister of Human Settlements as well as an ambassador at large.

To have added the post of Prime Minister to her considerable credentials would have created a good deal of opposition.

Mr Virata's appointment has to be confirmed by the National Assembly but that will be a formality and the stage has now been set for President Marcos's "new republic" after his overwhelming victory in the June 16 elections and his inauguration earlier this week.

There is likely to be little real change under the new government format.

Ben Bella rejects North-South 'monologue'

By Richard Owen

After 14 years in Algerian jails, and two years under house arrest, the former Algerian revolutionary leader Ahmed Ben Bella is on the move again.

He arrived in London this week as the guest of a group of Labour MPs and the Bert Russell Peace Foundation. His visit is the result of a long campaign to persuade the Algerian authorities to allow him to travel abroad.

He is reluctant to express a view on current Algerian politics, beyond noting that President Chadli Benjedid faces difficulties, and that he does not wish to add to them.

But in an interview with *The Times*, independent Algeria's first President ranged over the ideas which have been uppermost in his mind since he was overthrown and imprisoned by his then Defence Minister, Colonel Houari Boumedienne, almost 16 years ago.

Mr Ben Bella had been a popular, charismatic President, and the Algerian authorities have subsequently kept him well out of the public eye for fear that he might still become the focus of mass acclaim. It was not until last November that President Chadli lifted restrictions on Mr Ben Bella as part of his policy of liberalisation.

Mr Ben Bella has emerged from this ordeal a calm, weary-looking figure who has an almost statesmanlike air of quiet authority and radiates powerful



A king's supporters: Moroccan children, waving a portrait of Crown Prince Sidi Muhammad, demonstrate at Al Aaiun, Western Sahara, in favour of King Hassan's peace efforts for the disputed area.

King hopeful of early Sahara referendum

From Charles Hargrove, Rabat, July 3

There could be a referendum in the Western Sahara within three or four months, King Hassan of Morocco said here last night.

But it would need the cooperation of Mauritania and Algeria as well as observers from the United Nations and the Organisation of African Unity.

By accepting the principle of a referendum at Nairbi, he had wanted to rid Morocco of the reputation of a country hostile to dialogue, he told a group of correspondents specially invited to the palace.

The referendum must be held on the basis of the census carried out by the Spanish authorities in 1974 which showed a population of 74,000 and 75,000, including the nomads. The Polisario Front claims that the population of the disputed area is more than 700,000.

It would be a "referendum of confirmation", the King said, and it must be preceded by a ceasefire. If it were held, he had no doubt its outcome would be favourable to Morocco.

He said he hoped Libya would show logic and cease giving aid to the Polisario Front.

But if it did not, it would not make much difference, since it would be clear to international opinion who had broken the ceasefire and opposed the holding of the referendum.

King Hassan denied that at Nairbi he had made a deal with the Polisario Front on leaving them alone in Chad in exchange for their suspending aid to the Polisario Front. "No African state was prepared to take the place of Libya in Chad, and provide money and troops", he said.

The King made it clear that the real problem in the Western Sahara was not Libya but Algeria. He had hoped the new Algerian government would rid itself of the rabios inherited from President Boumedienne, and return to the good relations that existed before 1975, particularly since the issue of the referendum had been raised.

But the hardline in Algiers still had the upper hand. He

carried out and affected all the items in the housewife's shopping basket", he said. But there could be no going back on them now. The alternative was to establish rationing, and this would mean a black market.

But the price rises were only a pretext for a very localized riot, he said. He would not have objected to mass demonstrations with placards and streamers—but there was rioting and pillaging and damage to property, mostly of the humbler sections of the population.

About 2,000 people had been arrested, half of them habitual offenders. There were also schoolchildren among the demonstrators. The government must remedy the shortage of technical universities or schools since there was no hope for young people who failed in their school certificate.

Now that the Western Sahara affair allowed him more time he would see that the Government tackled these problems and deal with the drift of country people to shanty towns in search of jobs.

Doubts over Poland hamper Comecon in framing new five-year plans

Sofia, July 3.—The Communist trading community Comecon today tried to work out guidelines for its members' five-year plans despite uncertainty over the ailing Polish economy.

To keep details of the talks confidential, observers from Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia, Laos, Mozambique and South Yemen were excluded.

Conference sources said today's session would probably be the most difficult in the three-day meeting since both one-year and five-year plans had to be coordinated while Poland effectively had no plan.

Poland's failure to provide about \$40m (about £21m) in coal and other raw materials to its Comecon partners probably overshadowed the talks, the sources said. But no overall aid programme for the Polish economy could be expected to emerge.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish Prime Minister, indirectly appealed to the other Comecon members yesterday to continue their emergency supplies to his country to help fight against the enemies of Socialism.

The Bulgarian party newspaper *Robotnichesko Delo* today ignored General Jaruzelski's speech, which also contained a strong reaffirmation of his Government's commitment to reform.

The newspaper published a long article saying the Polish leadership had still not taken strong enough measures against counter-revolutionary forces.

After the departure of General Jaruzelski yesterday, the

Polish delegation has been led by Mr Melchyslaw Japelski, the Deputy Prime Minister. Warsaw's main negotiator with Solidarity, the independent trade union movement during the strikes last August.

Attending the meeting of the Comecon Council, the groups' policy-making body, are the 10 full members and Yugoslavia, an associate member.

The new statements either officially issued or leaked from the closed talks showed the East Europeans were jockeying for better positions in relation to the huge Soviet economy in the next five years.

General Jaruzelski was the most frank about the area's energy squeeze, which he called a major barrier to growth in Poland and many other communist countries.

Mr Ilie Verdet, the Rumanian Prime Minister, repeated his country's willingness to participate in joint prospecting and exploitation of natural resources.

Once one of the world's largest oil producers, Rumania gave up its go-it-alone position within Comecon and began buying Soviet oil last year because domestic supply was falling.

The East Europeans would like more oil, the commodity never mentioned but always understood in discussions of Comecon raw material cooperation.

But Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Soviet Prime Minister, indicated that Moscow stood by its decision last year to freeze crude deliveries to the area at the 1980 level of 80 million tonnes a year.—Reuters.

Sham emigré was a spy

Vienna, July 3.—A Czechoslovak, who was granted political asylum after claiming to be a member of the Charter 77 dissident movement, spent the past four years here as a spy, police said.

Mr Josef Rodic returned to Prague yesterday, according to the newspaper *Kurier*. Last night Prague radio confirmed the return of a prominent and trustworthy member of the Czechoslovak secret service, but did not reveal the agent's identity.

Today the Czechoslovak news agency said the agent, identified only as "J.H.", had returned home after a successful long mission abroad during which

he had investigated "the traitorous activities" of prominent Czech emigrés.

Mr Milan Kadnar, the Czechoslovak ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry here today where he was told that the Government was deeply annoyed by Czechoslovak secret service activities in Austria and that it wanted them to cease, a ministry spokesman said.

It is believed that Mr Rodic, aged 55, had extensive contacts with the Austrian Army, and with political refugees from Eastern Europe, who are arriving here in record numbers.—AP, UPI and Agence France-Press.

Ben Bella rejects North-South 'monologue'

energy. It is not difficult to see why successive Algerian leaders should have been wary of him.

He sees his role, however, not in terms of Algeria, but in the wider context of the resurgence of Islam in the Middle East and North Africa, and its relation to the West.

The Islamic revival, he believes, goes far beyond the events started by the revolution in Iran. At the root of it, in his view, lies the revolt of ordinary Muslims and, above all, the mass of young Muslims, against attempts to Westernize their cultures, or to import into Islamic societies practices which are alien to them.

The result has been an explosive mixture of nationalism, Muslim consciousness and "anti-imperialism"—but not necessarily socialism.

The revolution in Algeria was a socialist one, but Mr Ben Bella now acknowledges that a movement against Western imperialism can be in Iran, acquiring a character which is far from left-wing. "I no longer talk about socialism myself", he says with a wry smile. "I am an anti-imperialist."

What all elements in the broad Islamic resurgence have in common, he suggests, is a feeling that "our culture" must be defended against alien impositions.

He is sceptical of Western recipes for the alleviation of Third World problems, such as those put forward by the World Commission, and dismisses the

North-South dialogue as "a North-South monologue, in which the North does all the talking."

He does believe, however, that the West can arrive at a more equitable relationship with the Third World.

Looking around the world after his long incarceration, like a political Rip Van Winkle returning to the light of day, Mr Ben Bella is depressed by what he sees as the lack of insight in Washington into the problems of the Third World, but is encouraged by European attitudes.



Mr Ben Bella with his wife Zorah in Paris.

IN BRIEF

China reveals its gold reserves

China has gold reserves of 12.8 million troy ounces (worth about £2,650m) and foreign currency reserves of \$2,260m (£1,137m), the People's Bank of China has announced.

It is the first time such statistics have been disclosed for more than three decades. Mr Li Baohua, the bank president, said this would now be done every month.

It is thought the disclosure has been demanded by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as a condition for giving China full borrowing and withdrawing rights.

New York crash

New York.—At least 30 people were injured when two underground trains collided in Brooklyn, trapping the driver of one train in the wreckage, police reported. He and five others were said to be in a serious condition.

Leaning still more

Pisa.—The Leaning Tower of Pisa tipped an extra one twenty-eight of an inch in the year and will topple in 30 or 40 years if it continues to increase its tilt at the present rate, a research group said.

Pope improving

Rome.—The Pope's recovery from an infection that forced him to go back into hospital is progressing favourably, *Fosservatore Romano* said.

Sentence upheld

Arnhem.—A Dutch appeal court has upheld a 12-year prison sentence on Geoffrey Allen Powell, aged 23, of Manchester, charged with the murder of a Dutch schoolgirl last August.

Sand shower

Nice.—The Sahara came to the south of France when an unusual atmospheric condition led to tons of North African sand falling along the Côte d'Azur drenching holiday-makers with "sand rain".

Antwerp stops

Antwerp.—Navigation in and out of the port of Antwerp was reduced to a trickle when 190 Belgian pilots went on strike over a government decision to cut their free travel to and from work.

Britons killed

Ankara.—A British Embassy employee, Mr Kenneth Waugh, and his companion, Miss Frances Mary Powell, both in their 20s, were killed in a car accident 144 miles south-west of here, an embassy official confirmed.

Soviet first

Moscow.—The Soviet Illyushin 85 airbus made its first scheduled international flight to inaugurate a twice-weekly service between Moscow and East Berlin, Tass reported.

Author appeals

Rome.—Robert Katz, the American author, is to appeal against a 13-month prison term and £120 fine for defaming the memory of the wartime Pope Pius XII. The sentence followed legal action over Mr Katz's book *Death in Rome*.

Dalsager's return

Brussels.—Mr Paul Dalsager, the EEC Farm Commissioner, who had a heart attack in May, plans to return to his post after this month and to resume his functions fully in September.

Not so funny

Shanghai.—Chinese authorities have told the British Embassy in Peking that a British student in Shanghai should leave China because of his "gang of four" student sources said here.

Patton honoured

Paris.—M Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, officially dedicated a square in the city's sixteenth arrondissement to General Patton in honour of the late American soldier.

ALGERIAN POLITBURO PURGED

Algiers, July 3.—Two close followers of the late President Houari Boumedienne have been dismissed from the Algerian Politburo. Mr Muhammad Said Mazouzi, another Politburo member, also lost his post. Boumedienne died in December, 1978.

Mr Abdelaziz Bouteflika, a former Foreign Minister, and Mr Muhammad Yahiaoui, the National Front Coordinator, were removed at a Central Committee meeting which ended its three-day summer session here last night.

The move was proposed by President Chadli Benjedid, who is also secretary general of the Central Committee. It came just two days after the suspension from the Politburo of Colonel Ahmed Bencherif, Mr Mazouzi's deputy, and both members of the former Revolutionary Council.

The suspension of Colonel Bencherif and Mr Lahbi appeared to be linked with charges arising from alleged misappropriation of Government property but Bencherif's removal was also a dismissal of Mr Bouteflika and Mr Yahiaoui, who will remain in the Central Committee, appeared to be a definite political move, according to observers here.

The purge was compensated by the return to the Politburo of Mr Mohamed Belkhal, the Prime Minister, and Mr Muhammad Benyahia, the Foreign Minister, both previously excluded.

—Agence France-Press.

Saturday Review

At the height of her fame as a grande dame of English letters — sweeping extravagantly between London and Hollywood, or the family homes in Derbyshire and Italy — Edith Sitwell unexpectedly decided to embrace the Roman Catholic faith. The outcome is told here by Victoria Glendinning in an extract from her forthcoming biography of the poet.

Edith Sitwell's personal success and personal fame during the 1930s and until her death can hardly be overestimated. Her name and her face were familiar to millions of people who had never read a word of her poetry. By being herself, she attracted the sort of notice that public relations organizations would charge a fortune for and still not achieve. Not all her peers viewed her fame with pleasure. The novelist Ivy Compton-Burnett said: "Success spoiled her. She got impossible. She's become a mixture of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Queen Elizabeth."

The subtext of this fame shows the price that was paid — not in money. She was, nevertheless, overbearing in a way that terrified her (she remembered her mother, who was imprisoned for debt). She was living like a rich woman and like a woman of the world, and she was neither.

In buying her clothes, she veered between the modest and the extravagant. A lady called Agnes Booth, who lived in one of the cottages in Ealing, the next village to Renishaw (the Sitwells' ancestral home, Derbyshire) did alterations for her and made her corsets. Her hats, when they were not specially designed and made, came from Whiteley's large and unpretentious department store in Bayswater that she was faithful to from her Pembroke Mansions days. But her parties and her public readings, and her own tastes, called for grand flamboyant clothes: The red velvet evening's coat from Adrienne in South Molton Street, the coral and gold cloak and the black poulie and afternoon and evening gowns from Miss Astor, cost a good many guineas. (Elizabeth Bowen said that she looked like "a high altar on the move".)

When she stayed at the Sesame Club she hired a car from the Daimler car-hire firm Raper Bros of Chelsea — driven by Mr Raper himself, who came to know her well, not only for her own transport to and from dinners, parties, concerts, and readings, but very often for the transport of particularly fragile or particularly beloved guests as well, to and from her Sesame Club entertainments. The bill from Rapers', after a six-week stay in London in the summer of 1951, ran into three figures.

Then there were the bills for board and lodging, and for her huge parties, from the Sesame Club itself. And her bar bills; and the bills from F. F. Matka, the London wine merchant; and from the Sheffield wine merchants, Hay and Sons, which she ran up — injudiciously and tellingly high — during the months that she spent at Renishaw.

The Sitwells' semifordal status at Renishaw meant that there were special obligations to be faced there and many calls on their time or money. Edith did not always get to the Annual Flower Show and Gala of the Renishaw Iron Works, but she always sent a cheque. A lady wrote from nearby Rotherham in 1950 regretting that Edith had been unable to come to some local function. "You know we local people admire you all tremendously but I fear we are afraid to show our feelings in the north. . . . Do forgive me for writing at all. I am a very lonely person, and perhaps it is our mutual feeling for each other that makes me love you." Like a poem or a painting, Edith and the idea of Edith served as a magnet for people's feelings, even if they never met her. She had become an icon.

She was in contrast very approachable, and greatly loved by anyone who served her, starting with the maids and housekeepers who worked for her own family: Barbara Nopper, who looked after her at Renishaw, and Gertrude Stevenson at Weston. To the manageress of Peggy Sage in Bond Street, where she had her "Dearest Edith," the Welsh maid who looked after her at the Sesame Club, Hannah Lewis, wrote to her when they were apart, and tickets for Edith's readings were sent round to Hannah in Mr Raper's car.

Among Edith's papers are grateful letters from many writers to whom she had sent small cheques to tide them over a difficult patch. She ordered coal to be sent to Tantonmura, then to be sent to Tantonmura, then to be sent to Tantonmura. Added to all this was the permanent charge on her resources of Evelyn Wied, her former governess's helpless old sister.

Her own greatest benefactor was still and always the novelist Bryher, who from her home in

Switzerland sent presents of furs, jewelry, cloths, books, cheques: "A little Clutchilla from my mother," a cheque for "a hat or something," "one of your autumn parties," another "so that you may go shopping in London." In 1950 she gave Edith £3,000 for a house; the money went to pay off the Inland Revenue.

The Sitwell icon also attracted unsolicited offerings of an embarrassing kind from people she hardly knew, presents of valuable jewelry, for example, from a rich widow, Alice Hunt (she laid siege to Osbert as well), to which Edith put a firm top. "It is no question of giving way to gossip, it is that nobody of any dignity can allow certain things to be said. It is all too vulgar and deplorable for any words."

Edith lined out on lively anecdotes of how she had crushed and annihilated enemies, fools, bores, people who were "imperfect," and intimates. These anecdotes have passed into legend, along with her delighted and unrestrained laughter. But the legend is only half the story, since she fulfilled to the letter the precept: "When thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth." (Much the same relationship existed between her and juggling bank accounts. She was permanently in overdraft in the 1950s.) Edith was not exaggerating, however, when she spoke of being persecuted by lunatics. The mad and the lonely wrote their souls out to her by every mail.

Being a star and an icon was no substitute for writing. That year 1952, all she had published was another anthology, *A Book of Flowers* — other men's flowers — for Macmillan, the "Poetry" article for Cassell's *Encyclopedia of Literature*, and a foreword to Sydney Goodsir Smith's poems, written partly as an act of friendship to the publisher, Peter Russell. King George VI died in February of that year; and Edith sent her anthology to Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, who had come to the Sitwells' poetry readings during the war, and whose mother-in-law, old Queen Mary, was Osbert's friend. The Queen wrote from Scotland to thank her on September 15.

"It is giving me the greatest pleasure, and I took it out with me, and started to read it, sitting by the river, and it was a day when one felt anguished by great black clouds of unhappiness and misery, and I found a sort of peace stealing round my heart as I read such lovely poems and heavenly words."

"If I had not been a Catholic I would have murdered him"

"I found a hope in George Herbert's poem, 'Who could have thought my shiver'd heart, could have recovered greenness.' It was gone quite underground" and I thought how small and selfish is sorrow. But it bangs one about until one is senseless, and I can never thank you enough for giving me such a delicious book wherein I found so much beauty and hope, quite suddenly one day by the river."

Edith's heart too needed to recover greenness. She had published no new poetry. Hollywood lay in wait for her. She still had no formal contract with Columbia for the projected film of her *Fanfare for Elizabeth*, though she was being given £5,000 for her travel and living expenses during her visit, with another \$45,000 promised: as she wrote to Geoffrey Gorer from Montefuoni (Sir George Sitwell's Italian castle) that September, "It really would be nice to have money just for once."

Columbia Pictures organized a press conference for her in London before she left, at Claridge's. She wore a black Persian lamb coat and — in the *Manchester Guardian's* words on November 20 — "a magnificent piece of military, not a hat, but her own: designed with an embroidered band of gold braiding, draped on either side of the head with dark green velvet."

On August 8, 1955, Edith wrote to John Hayward, "My life in America and since I got back from America, I have been able to settle down to nothing excepting over-work, and becoming a Catholic (which I became on Thursday)."

It was partly the need for some authority high enough to contain and control the turmoil of her feelings about David Horner, Osbert's close companion, that drove her to take the same step as he himself had taken over ten years before. In 1944 Horner had become a convert to the Roman Catholic Church, and Edith had written him on April 2 of that year: "I am certain this is going to bring you great happiness, and that you were absolutely right and absolutely wise to take the step. . . . I have never understood why people are afraid of constructive religion. Very few people are capable of coming to any great decision, but you have been." She was sure that such a decision "gives one an immense feeling of calm and of peace and security, and great framework on which to build one's day." After her own conversion, she said of Horner, to Jack Lindsay and to others, "If I had not been a Catholic, I would have murdered him."

But however "absolutely right and absolutely wise" she felt Horner's decision to be, she had not at that time been very sympathetic to the Catholic men-



Dame Edith's conversion

by Victoria Glendinning



Top: The Sitwells — Sacheverell, Edith and Osbert — photographed by Cecil Beaton c. 1926; above, Edith in the Fifties — a portrait by Roger Wood

ality. In an undated wartime letter, Stephen Spender wrote to her:

"Tom [Eliot] has awfully good things to say, but the smugness which he takes shelter in the 'Catholic' view of life is always irritating. . . . Nor is it true that the Catholic point of view is even a superior answer to the difficulties of being alive as Eliot seems to think. It's all right on paper, but in practice Catholics can only get through the day with the help of aspirin or whisky. They have acute neuralgia, most of them; and those that don't are hypochondriacs."

She might have been disturbed that she reread his words ten years or so later. Jack Lindsay interpreted her conversion from his Marxist standpoint: "She still thought, rather as Carlyle and Dickens thought, The Fires of God and the avenging angel, not the activity of organized persons, were what brought about the destruction and renewal. And so the image of Christ was central in her concept of revolutionary change. . . . He thought that while Christ originally appeared in her poetry as 'a necessary image of human unity,' she came increasingly to need the image, 'as an external reality, outside as well as inside her poetry.'"

Edith had met Father Martin D'Arcy, S. J., with Roy and Mary Campbell, who were both Roman Catholics. In April 1955, when Edith wrote to him announcing

her decision, Father D'Arcy was in Notre Dame, Indiana. He replied conveying great pleasure at the news: "I had felt God's love moving in your last volumes of poetry." So had other readers and critics — it had been true since "Cold Coast Customs" and she had accepted their observations.

Writing to Bowra on January 24, 1944, about the essay that later appeared in *A Celebration for Edith Sitwell*, she had said: "Your sentence: 'the earth is more than a garment of God: it is a manifestation of God himself' is wonderful, and it is the truth that lies beneath all my poetry." And the pantheism in her poetry, which Lindsay saw as Marxist, Kenneth Clark in his *Cathedral* essay had seen as Christian: "Miss Sitwell is essentially a religious poet; that is to say, she has experienced imaginatively, not merely intellectually, the evil and misery of the world, and has overcome that experience by the conviction that all creation is one under the Divine Love." Edith had the religious temperament; but she had not, until now, felt the need for the structure and instruction of organized religion.

Father D'Arcy had referred Edith to his colleague Father Philip Caraman, based at Farm Street in London, who was to give her instruction in the Catholic faith. He and Edith met for the first time on April 29. Edith wrote to him that their meeting had given her "a sense of happiness, safety and peace such as I have

not had for years. . . . What a fool I was not to have taken this step years ago." She wanted peace of mind above all things. She said once that it was the serenity in the faces of the peasant women praying in the churches in Italy that had drawn her to the Church. . . .

She was off at once to Montefuoni. The *Atlantic Monthly* and Little Brown had commissioned a large anthology of British and American Poetry. The American one-volume edition finally ran to over a thousand pages — and she was trying to come to grips with it. Father Caraman, to whom she finally dedicated the anthology, wrote to her in Italy on May 1: "Now this may be a bold thing to say — but I am convinced that the Holy Spirit has so worked already in your heart and mind, that there is little left for a priest to do, save take you systematically through the principal articles of Catholic Faith." Which was just as well, since her schedule on her return to London in June was packed — "I shall probably be a stretcher case," she warned Bowra, planning a luncheon on June 22 for him, the Clarks, and David Jones, "whom I do not know, but I think he is a really great poet." During June she also had to recite in Cambridge, and rehearse and perform *Façade* at the Festival Hall on the fifteenth. She was also recording *Façade* for Decca — they had paid her an advance of fifty guineas.

None of this, including the

award of her fourth honorary degree (from Sheffield University), was conducive to preparation for her new undertaking. But all through May in Italy and June in London she had corresponded regularly with Father Caraman. She confided to him her chief spiritual problem, from Montefuoni, on May 7. She was "under daily temptation to great anger."

"It is because of something terribly cruel which has been done to my dear Osbert, and by his greatest friend. It has made Osbert, who has now even to have his food cut up for him, see himself as a hopeless cripple, dependent on the ordinary kindness that has been denied him. His friend deserted him — but now he owes everything in the world to Osbert's back, who has house for his own convenience and intends to live with us again, and it is a great difficulty to me. I have so far shown no anger, but I do feel it. I must, of course, remember my own grave faults."

Father Caraman suggested that they might hope that Osbert's sufferings would bring him too into the Church. Evelyn Waugh, also a convert, but one of twenty-five years' standing, had the same thought. Edith wrote to him in July to tell him she was under instruction, and Waugh replied: "Welcome, welcome. . . . Is it exorbitant to hope that your example and prayers may bring Osbert to the Faith? I have often thought I saw in his writing (though not as plain as in yours) that he was near the truth." But neither Osbert nor Sacheverell followed — "Where are you reformed, my sister? Among orisons and litanies?" wrote Sacheverell in "Serenade to a Sister."

The telling of the rosary is but a counting of the petals. Is but a rose held in an old and withered hand. Not hands as yours, supple and youthful. That are the tiger in the tiger-lily.

In July Father Caraman went up to stay at the Jesuit house at Spinkhill, a mile across the valley from Renishaw, giving her instruction. He had already been feeding her with literature: "Mr Sheel's *Theology and Sanctity* is being a great help to me," she told him. "Saint Thomas Aquinas is a wonder of course from every point of view. I do not find Mr Knox's book of great help to me for several reasons. One being that I do not like his style of writing."

"Edith appeared swathed in black like a sixteenth-century infant"

But she made no difficulties for her instructor over points of dogma and doctrine. The Church offered her a home and a family, and she gladly embraced its house rules. Her life, though crowded with people, was lonely. The Church, with its confessional relationships, took her and her anxieties on its shoulders more acceptingly and more reassuringly than could have the mother, lover — or analyst — that she had never had. A place on Parnassus cannot be guaranteed; but "in my father's house are many mansions." If Christ did not save, there was nothing but the bones, the dust, the ass's bray, the "heart's dark slum." Slid Row, the eternal Cold. . . . In her own heart as in her poetry, that was all she believed there was. In her commitment to the Starved Man on the Cross she was not only formally aligning herself with the poor and the outcast, and preparing for death, but accepting the hope of life on its own terms — "the blind, all-seeing Power at her great work of death and rebirth," as she wrote in "Bagatelle," one of the *Gardeners and Astronomers* poems.

In her own life, she had no way other than through her poetry (which was during up of transcending herself. Most people find a way to flow out of themselves; most know the nonphysical realities that are reached through physical love, or through caring for a child. Edith could not even lose herself in making a garden, a home, a cake. "From pent-up aching rivers, from that of myself without which I was nothing" — Whitman's litanies express, albeit in too stridently physical a context, something of Edith's frustration. All rivers, however pent-up, find their way to the sea. The Roman Catholic Church is one great outlet, and it could contain and sustain anything she chose to pour into it. In "How Many Heavens . . ." from *Street Songs* she had written:

"He is the core of the heart of love, and He, beyond labouring seas, our ultimate shore" —

"She was an eccentric woman. And she was an eccentric Catholic," said Father Caraman. Evelyn Waugh, a stickler for form, was concerned lest her reception into the Church might be eccentric too. He wrote to Father Caraman on July 19: "I am an old friend of Edith's and love her. She is liable to make herself a little conspicuous at times." She says she will be received in London. Am I being over-fastidious in thinking Mount St. Mary's much more suitable. What I fear is that the popular papers may take her up as a kind of Garbo-Queen Christina. . . . There are so many malicious

people about to make a booby of a Sitwell. It would be tragic if this great occasion in her life were in any way sullied."

The occasion may have been mildly eccentric, but it was unaltered. It took place at noon at Farm Street Church in Mayfair on August 4. She was received by Father Caraman. Waugh was her godfather, wearing a check suit and a straw boater with a red-and-blue ribbon. (Edith's other godparents were the Campbells, but Roy Campbell was ill and they could not come.) Since her conversion was pre-Vatican II and the subsequent reforms, she was obliged to publicly recant all manner of heresies, which she did with aplomb. Evelyn Waugh described the proceedings in the church in his diary:

"A bald shy man introduced himself as the actor Alec Guinness. Presently Edith appeared swathed in black like a sixteenth-century infant. I was aware of other people kneeling behind her, there were no newspaper men or photographers as I had half feared to find. Edith recanted her errors in fine style and received conditional baptism, then was led into the confessional while six of us collected in the sacristy."

The six were himself, Father D'Arcy, Alec Guinness, "an old lame deaf woman with dyed red hair whose name I never learned" (this was Evelyn Wied), "a little swarthy man who looked like a Jew but claimed to be Portuguese" (Alberto de Lacerda), and "a blond youth" who looked like an American but claimed to be English. Quentin Stevenson. They all drove off in Mr Raper's Daimler to the Sesame Club:

"I had heard gruesome stories of this place but Edith had ordered a banquet — cold consommé, lobster Newburg, steak, strawberry flan and great quantities of wine. The old woman suddenly said: 'Did I hear the word whiskey?' I said: 'Do you want one?' 'More than anything in the world.' 'I'll get you some.' But the Portuguese nudged me and said: 'It would be disastrous.'"

On August 9 Waugh wrote to thank Edith for the luncheon party — "I thought your circle of friends round the table remarkably typical of the Church in its variety and goodwill" — and pondered whether, as her godfather, he should warn her of the "probable shock" in the "human aspect of Catholicism." "Most all priests are as clever and kind as Fr D'Arcy and Fr Caanan. But I am sure you know the world well enough to expect Catholic bores and prigs and crooks and cads. I always think of myself: 'I know I am awful. But how much more awful I should be without the Faith.'"

Two months later, on October 4, Edith crossed the last rubicon and was confirmed at Farm Street in front of "a large invited audience the cream of Catholic London." Waugh was not there; he repeated in his diary what Lady Pakenham had told him. The good Archbishop Roberts seemed to take this sophisticated congregation for "one of his mission schools in Bombay." "Now we want you to learn this very useful prayer and say it every day if you don't do so already. Repeat after me — O God — pour down — we beseech thee — thy grace . . ." He made them go through it in chorus three times. (One suspects the archbishop knew precisely what he was doing with "the cream of Catholic London.") Afterwards, Waugh was told, there was a cocktail party at the Connaught Hotel, "paid for by the Jesuits."

After Edith left, Father Caraman announced, "Edith was separated. I just want to say that any of you who would like to ask Dame Edith to a meal, is free to do so." There were some things that even the Roman Catholic Church could not do for Edith.

She had written to Lady Lovat on August 25:

"I am still feeling bewildered. . . . But when I have finished the anthology of 1,700 pages I am working at, I shall be able to read works of doctrine with proper concentration. How wonderful the Theological precision of St. Thomas Aquinas, translated by Father Gilbey, are! To read them is like being put into an oxygen tent when one is dying."

The divine oxygen did not make Edith a devotee, nor even a career Catholic. She remained close to Catholicism, made it the background for her life, not the foreground. Perhaps she had hoped for a miracle, and, like a bride after her wedding night, she was disappointed that she was still the same after her reception into the Church — or rather, that even if she had new weapons and new allies, her adversaries, both spiritual and human, were unchanged.

She never reneged or lost her faith, and she retained her close and confidential relationship with her confessor. But after the first year or so she was an irregular attendee at Mass. She became then like a settled married woman who feels no need to keep the fires of courtship blazing. Nor did she proselytize. When Allanah Harper, the following year, was thinking of joining the Church, she wrote at length to Edith about her doubts and spiritual difficulties; she was disappointed by the short shrift Edith gave her.

This extract is taken from *Edith Sitwell: A Unicorn Among Lions* by Victoria Glendinning, to be published on July 30 by Weidenfeld & Nicolson at £9.95.

Wigmore Hall

Manager: William Lyne

Arts Council
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Tonight 4 o'clock	GEORGE PAOK violin GEORGE MALCOLM 7:30 p.m.	Sat. Sanitar in A BWV 1016 Sun BWV 1017 in E mhn. BWV in BWV 1019. 1st of a c Wigore Summer Nights/Inpre Wittles Ltd.
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7.30 p.m.

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11. Yenud Menunjin
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Friday
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5th July Opening Service—Festival of the City of London

12th July Missa Brevis in D (K 194)

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New York/John Heilpern

Can London match a free show like this?



Henry Geldzahler, New York's Commissioner of Cultural Affairs: making the arts accessible to all

Each hot summer in New York, in the streets and squares and museum plazas, most of all in that hybrid of play-pen and war-zone known as Central Park, a wonderful open-air Arts Festival is declared for the people, and frequently by the people. Furthermore it is all free.

As I became once through experimental theatre groups and crazed performing fire-eaters along Fifth Avenue, Bach ensemble players and unstoppable flamenco dancers in Washington Square, street shamans and poets, puppeteers and clowns, jazz musicians and opera singers and intrepid jugglers on nine-foot stilts apparently everywhere, it is as if in this spectacular outpouring of fun and entertainment, New Yorkers themselves have become the best show in town.

The streets are full of performing artists — be advised. Outside the Lincoln Center, the first of 60 free events throughout a special three-week season is about to begin, and naturally the ubiquitous Mayor Koch is present to open the proceedings. A stage has been constructed in the forecourt and as many as a thousand enthusiastic members of the public have come to watch children — a troupe of "plucky youngsters", as they say — perform a new musical devised for them by Manhattan's leading young composer, Elizabeth Swados. The Mayor, much to his pleasure, is surrounded by television cameras and the press.

"Come on, you guys!" the Mayor is saying to them in characteristic fashion. "Let's forget our problems for once, where else in the world can you get a free show like this? That's right. Nowhere. The city of New York pledges itself to support free arts. So let's enjoy the show and three cheers for New York!"

At which the gentlemen of the press, seduced by imminent pleasure, throw their hats into the air and say: "You're right! And while we're about it — three cheers for you too, Mr Mayor."

It is this atmosphere of civic pride and innocent celebration of the arts, relieving one's daily cares, which is the essential life-blood of New York in summer. Last week, 200,000 New Yorkers flocked to Central Park to hear Plácido Domingo and Renata Scotti in the Mer's production of *Tosca*. The performance was free. To come are Zubin Mehta and the New York Philharmonic, without admission charge on the Park's Great Lawn, and Joseph Papp's annual free Shakespeare production. Again, thousands and thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds will attend.

At the same time, yet more free cultural events, not only within Manhattan but throughout the surrounding boroughs, include travelling Soviet companies, the Brooklyn Phil-

harmonic, a film festival, and a five-day Caribbean festival. On a special evening several days ago, Fifth Avenue was closed to traffic — permitting eight museums, including the Guggenheim and the Cooper-Hewitt, to declare open house for an eager public.

So throughout each summer, New York is transformed into a special evening several days ago, Fifth Avenue was closed to traffic — permitting eight museums, including the Guggenheim and the Cooper-Hewitt, to declare open house for an eager public.

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for free arts festivals in Britain. Like Britain, the United States has its inflation and drastic cut-backs in the arts. Yet the city of New York will raise finance somehow for artists such as Plácido Domingo to perform in the park — and it does so as a matter of principle.

In the essentials, it is not a matter of money. It is more a case of the spirit and will of the artistic community and those who subsidize the arts — including, crucially, the big banks and industries as well as government — wishing to reach out directly to the people.

To be sure, cities and towns in Britain occasionally mount a free show in summer. But it would be wrong, I think, to special grants were created so that our own museums could declare open house (instead of closing on Bank holidays); or that the G.C., believing Covent Garden to be distasteful, would reduce its grant but, on the contrary, would seize the democratic initiative by trying to raise more finance so that free performances could be given for thousands more people; or that the RSC or the

doomed Prospect Company be given a permanent summer home for free Shakespeare in the park; or, indeed, that free summer arts festivals be supported in every city and borough throughout the land. Why not?

Money? (For, despite the American precedent one cannot, as it were, help oneself). In which case, perhaps I may be of some assistance. Attending a party in Manhattan, I attempted, most soberly I assure you, to give a great deal of money for free arts to Mr Trevor Nunn of the Royal Shakespeare Company and to Sir Peter Hall of the National, who by happy coincidence, were present. My offer to them was as follows:

"I am the chairman of the National Westminster Bank and I have good news. I should like to give you £250,000 each on one condition: that in order to cheer everyone up, the sum be used only for a free summer arts festival." Rest assured, dear readers, as Chairman I also have the regions upmost in my mind and special grants have been set up for them, too.

Sir Peter accepted the gift before the ink was dry on the cheque, suggesting off the top of his head that he would throw open the doors of the National for a children's festival. Mr Nunn, who appeared to be stunned, accepted, too — thought not without certain traditional English worries. Would the Arts Council, for example, now reduce his Royal Shakespeare Company subsidy in the face of my munificence?

So it was that I was able to reassure him that the Arts Council would do no such thing. In fact, so inspired is the Arts Council by my splendid initiative — as well as the Government, the regional council, private industry, and my friendly rivals in the banking world — that we are all at this moment vigorously co-operating in setting up a special fund for free arts festivals throughout Britain.

There is, of course, only one catch. I am not the Chairman of the National Westminster Bank. More the pity. But what I am suggesting is essentially, in different to what is happening in New York — and it is a

glorious achievement. Who will take the initiative in Britain? Who would like to celebrate summer?

Two important events it is a pleasure to pay to see are the Metropolitan Museum's exhibition of 150 African sculptures from the Nubian Collection, and by happy coincidence, another exhibition at the excellent Brooklyn Museum that focuses entirely on the great functional beauty and simplicity of everyday African objects. Each show reflects a growing interest in the mysterious force of African art — though the term "art" presents a problem.

When I travelled through Central West Africa several years ago with Peter Brook's experimental theatre group, the earnest problem arose during the course of the long journey as to what exactly a play is. So I asked, "one of the actors. 'A play', he replied in the tones of an oracle, "is anything with me in it". What, therefore, is art? And I think the answer is: anything in a museum.

On the other hand, what is not termed African art when he uses it. Matsise and Derain were among the first artists to collect traditional African art — to be followed significantly by Picasso. Though Picasso capriciously denied the influence of the African sculptures he saw at the Palais du Trocadéro in Paris in 1907, two months later he completed his masterpiece, *Les Femmes d'Alger*, the starting point of Cubism.

"Unlike any other painting by Picasso", writes the critic John Berger, *Les Femmes d'Alger* offers no evidence of skill. In a crucial sense, it is a raw and primitive fury of a painting. But it is this precious quality of sheer force and truth that also goes to the heart of African art. At its finest, it exists in a sublime state of crisis, in a moment of decision, in a moment of choice. And museum exhibitions? It was, in fact, at the Brooklyn Museum that Stewart Culin, then curator, mounted the first African Exhibition in 1922 to be shown in America. It was not as ethnographic material but as objects existing in their own right, beautifully made. He took Africa away from anthropology towards art, judging by the popularity and scholarship of the current exhibitions, he was right.

Chess/Harry Golombek

Stop this pretence

It looks as though Fridrik Olafsson's gallant, if belated, attempt to secure equal conditions for the two contestants in the October World Championship match at Merano, Italy, is going to meet with a dusty answer, if any answer at all, from the Soviet authorities. For the June 22 issue of *Sovetsky Sport* contains a protocol by the Soviet Chess Federation against the decision by the FIDE President to postpone the start of the match by a month in order to give the Soviet authorities time to answer his request that Victor Korchnoi's family be allowed to leave the USSR and join the challenger for the title in Switzerland.

The protest, couched in brusque, almost brutal, terms claims that Olafsson has clearly exceeded his mandate and says that he uses arguments tinged with political motives to justify his decision about the deferment of the match by a month.

We should do away with the hypocritical pretence that this is a protest made by the Soviet Chess Federation. It must have been made by that federation at the behest of some official in the Kremlin who betrays at every turn in the argument his ignorance of the true state of world chess affairs.

Poor Olafsson, he is very much the child in *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* who is in danger of being torn in two by rival claimants, though here we have the Soviet Government on the one side and Korchnoi himself on the other.

I am amused by the Kremlin man's remark that both players signed the document giving the regulations of the match. This must surely mean, if the said gentleman is at all logical, that Olafsson's action in postponing the match to give the Soviet officials time to give permission for the creation of Korchnoi's family could have been justified only if the regulations contained a clause to the effect that both contestants guarantee that if their country holds captive the family of either contestant, they will see to it that the family is released. Quod est absurdum.

Finally, the Soviet Chess Federation asks for an extraordinary meeting of the FIDE Executive Council (the known as the FIDE Bureau) to rescind this illegal decision. Again, this shows some ignorance. The General Assembly has the power of making decisions and, the President possesses that power of making decisions. So it seems, Korchnoi will have to play the match with the handicap of knowing that his family is still imprisoned in the Soviet Union.

pursuit as chess. Nevertheless, it does not augur well for Anatoly Karpov's chances in the match; when one realizes that Ivan Grozny, who was a chess champion, collapsed and died just as he was about to commence a game of chess.

I believe that the world championship match will indeed take place in Merano this year, but bedevilled by all sorts of under, over and middle political pressure. Yet the chess should be really good because both contestants are in magnificent form. Here, for instance, is how Korchnoi beat one of the best of the younger Soviet grandmasters at this year's Leningrad tournament in California.

White: Korchnoi, Black: Yusupov, QGD Slav Defence.

1. P-Q4 P-Q4 2. Q-Q3 Q-Q3 3. P-Q3 P-Q3 4. P-Q3 P-Q3 5. P-Q3 P-Q3 6. Q-Q3 P-Q3

A good move and an improvement on 11. B-B1 as Korchnoi played in a match-game against Petrosian last year.

This complete opening of the centre favours the side with the two Bishops; preference was 16... P-P3, 17. BxP, N-Q4.

17. P-P3 P-P3 18. P-P3 P-P3 19. P-P3 P-P3 20. P-P3 P-P3 21. P-P3 P-P3 22. P-P3 P-P3

Sacrificing a pawn, temporarily at any rate, in order to retain his two powerful Bishops.

19. N-NP 20. Q-Q3 N-Q4 21. P-B4 P-B4 22. P-B4 P-B4

Oddly enough, if 20... N-R3, 21. P-B4 wins the other Knight.

21. N-NP P-N 22. P-B4 P-B4 23. P-B4 P-B4 24. P-B4 P-B4 25. P-B4 P-B4 26. P-B4 P-B4 27. P-B4 P-B4 28. P-B4 P-B4

A brilliant finish with which, says *Schakend Nederland*, Korchnoi ensures the publication of the game over the USSR, except in the USSR.

37. P-B4 P-B4 38. P-B4 P-B4 39. P-B4 P-B4 40. P-B4 P-B4 41. P-B4 P-B4 42. P-B4 P-B4 43. P-B4 P-B4 44. P-B4 P-B4

For if 39... Q-Q3, 40. Q-B4 ch, K-R4; 41. P-N4 ch, K-R5; 42. Q-R6 mate.

IN THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY TIMES



LADY DI'S CHILDHOOD

The first instalment of a major Colour Magazine profile. Part One — the not-so-perfect childhood that left Lady Diana Spencer as the youngest daughter of a broken home. "As a child she had learnt to master the conflicts of her own divided family with ability beyond her years, so when she had to face a new life as the most famous young woman in Britain, she had a private reservoir of reticence and diplomacy on which to draw."

THE FIRING OF JOE CALIFANO



Joseph Califano, a member of Carter's cabinet, sacked after "friction with the White House staff", gives the first insider's view of what went wrong with the Carter Administration. By mid-1979, Carter was in deep trouble. No matter how hard he worked, he was unable to win over Congress, the American people or the world at large. In despair he withdrew from Washington to the presidential retreat at Camp David to think things over. His sojourn there was to mark the start of his political career's final disintegration.

THE GOD KING Interview with the Dalai Lama

FRANCHISES: HOW NOT TO GET TAKEN TO THE CLEANERS

Business News on the questions to ask, where to find the answers, how to spot a dud — and how to make money

OWN YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Business News on the questions to ask, where to find the answers, how to spot a dud — and how to make money

CINEMAS

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Travel/edited by Shona Crawford Poole

Policy perils for the touring driver

If you are taking your own car to Europe, hiring a car on holiday or booking a flydrive package, look closely at your insurance cover. You could be dangerously unprotected if you cause more than the simplest of accidents.

It is bad enough that each country should have different levels of obligatory cover for third-party risk: the amount you must be insured for in the event of being sued for the death or injury of other people, or causing damage to their property.

Yet no fewer than nine countries on the Continent actually have laws which exclude members of the family from the scope of this basic compulsory insurance cover. If you cause a crash which injures your wife, children, or other immediate relatives in France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Greece, Portugal, Turkey, Austria and Luxembourg, and you were insured only to the minimum required, they would hardly be likely to sue for compensation because you would not be indemnified against their claim. You would be left to foot the bill personally for whatever sum might be awarded against you, whereas in Britain your insurance company would meet any such claim.

The danger could come principally when dealing with local car hire firms in situ: perhaps a sudden decision on the part of the family to rent a car at their resort for a day or so during their holiday. Equally risky is unquestioned trust in the flydrive tour operator's ability to negotiate better-than-minimum cover with the hire firm which he has sub-contracted.

However, anyone imprudent enough to take the family car to Europe without the benefit of an insurance Green Card, which strengthens one's rights abroad to the level of cover at home, is also liable to fall into the same trap.

These days, you can tour the EEC countries plus Finland, Norway, Sweden, Austria and parts of eastern Europe, and nothing more than a GB plate and your basic British insurance policy. But you are insured only to the statutory minimum decreed by the various states in respect of bodily injury - medical damage - and sometimes for a limit set per accident.

It is some of these set limits which are causing concern in insurance circles as well as the exclusion of families from third-party rights, apparently for fear of collusion in any claim.

Nor is it any comfort to be told by a hire company's reservations clerk that you can be "fully covered" on payment of further premiums for personal accident insurance or collision damage. If the rental firm offers the basic level of cover required by the laws of that country, and no more, you are most certainly not fully covered in the sense assumed by most British motorists.

The major international car hire companies do, in fact, have global insurance provisions that override any local quibbles and limitations. Yet none of the literature from Hertz, Avis or Europcar that I have studied goes beyond stating that insurance is provided "in accordance with the laws of the country of rental", and I have found a curious reluctance on their part to discuss the subject in any detail.

Furthermore, these laws vary enormously between countries. For instance, they could mean the difference between £5m and £14.5m in respect of property damage cover (Sweden v Turkey). Turkey excludes "family members living in the same house as the insured". In Portugal, all passengers are excluded; in Greece, you would be indemnified only if a passenger had paid for the ride; and in Switzerland, you would be covered if the family sued you for personal injury but not

for damage to their belongings. Whereas in Britain, third-party insurance covers you for any number of claims for an unlimited amount, in Italy there is a limit that the insurance companies need pay of £5m lire per accident: about £21,250. The limit for each injured person need be no more than 20m lire (say £8,500), or 5m lire (£2,125) for property damage. Even without the worry of your family being excluded from your policy, were you so unfortunate to cause an accident involving several fatalities, it is anyone's guess where it could end.

In Greece, where British visitors now outnumber all other tourists, there is no limit set per accident but a car driver need only be insured for third-party liability purposes to £3,000 for bodily injury and £1,800 for property damage.

Turkey is another area with "what one underwriter calls a 'wild' limit: an amazing £360 basic, per accident; £120 per person for bodily injury; and that ridiculous £14.5m for property - quite apart from the intriguing possibilities raised by the convoluted family exclusions already mentioned. Uniquely, too, as far as Europe is concerned, any, not need you be covered in respect of uninsured or hit-and-run vehicles.

Closer to home, things are not much sadder. Go touring in Ireland, for instance, and the minimum cover required by law when it comes to property damage is a paltry £1,000 (about £800). If you take your own car to Spain you must have a Green

Card, but if you decide to rent a car there the minimum cover a hire company need provide would be about £4,000 for the death of a third party or £3,250 for bodily injury, according to degree of disability.

Indeed a grisly scale of the price of human suffering emerges if you examine the minima set for bodily injury cover - Denmark £714,250; France £182,000; Germany £108,500 (£163,000 if several injured); Iceland £125m; The Netherlands £192,300; Sweden £5m. (All conversions approximate).

The EEC is trying to straighten out some of these differences within the community. A second directive on motor insurance, subject of a House of Lords report last month, aims to abolish the "family" exclusion, for instance.

Neither do insurance experts I have spoken to believe that the majority of limits of liability need reexamining. "They are quite responsible in the main and mean ignoring cheaper deals available locally."

But the tangled web of law and limitation is posing headaches elsewhere. An RAC spokesman responsible for insurance advice to members told me: "I have even had telephone calls from Strasbourg, when EEC officials have asked me the same questions you are asking now. It is clear they are uncertain about the situation, and I think that is rather alarming."

An underwriter with the Guardian Royal Exchange group explained why anyone seeking a touring policy to top-up the cover offered to him when hiring a car abroad would fail. "What we would want is some certainty that the underlying cover would operate," he said. "We would not know who was providing the basic cover, and if it were sound. Furthermore, if we wrote this contingency policy it might negate any local guarantee funds which could pay the claim." The company would not, any inquirer in touch with its local

agent in the country in question, however.

So it all comes back to the major car hire firms. The general lack of knowledge at official level suggests ill for the driver who is starting his business trip or holiday at the car rental desk at home or abroad. Unless you are forwarded to be inquisitive, it is likely that the clerk will inform you about the deficiencies of cover. Or even know about them?

A Hertz executive told me: "It is a difficult area and it is hard to communicate the problem to our customers. On the one hand we don't want to frighten them off, because too much can be made of it. On the other, there has to be a certain responsibility to make people aware if there is a substantial difference." Shortly afterwards another Hertz official phoned to say: "We have worldwide umbrella insurances and whatever the limitations might be in the country concerned, Hertz will meet any claim." Both Avis and Europcar also said they offer "far more than the minimum legal requirements."

In Avis's case, however, the figure is about £50,000 per person and £150,000 per accident with provision for £12,500 property damage. "No one will guarantee unlimited cover," a spokesman said.

The only safe conclusion to be drawn, therefore, is that one should rent with the major operators of the business wherever possible, even if it means ignoring cheaper deals available locally.

I just find it curious that, as they seldom seem to miss a trick in any other respect, these corporate colossi have not capitalized on this advantage in their fight against the street-corner Dave before now. Could it be that they are shy about revealing the nature of their policies, have not yet decided after all exist for the peace of mind of their customers, for fear of attracting punitive lawsuits - especially in America?

Any litigation involving costly litigation would probably result in their having to pay higher insurance premiums for this super-cover and, inevitably, our having to pay more for the pleasure of renting their cars in the first place.

Tony Rocca

A good catch at Boulogne

Boulogne, the first breath of French air for many British holidaymakers in a place most tourists drive through as fast as possible on the way somewhere else. The docks are all most of us know of the place except the route out of town. It does have other attractions, however, as those who have stopped to shop or eat have discovered for themselves.

It also has a little known seasonal attraction, the annual *fiesta de poisson*. Being a fishing port, Boulogne makes quite a thing of its fish festival at which up to 900 people sit down to a fish dinner in the Casino. It is a novel spectacle which occurs nightly for two weeks and anyone can join in.

Boulogne's casino is not one of those old-fashioned gilt and red plush places. It is postwar modern, bleak and cavernous. For the fish festival the main hall is packed with trestle tables and forms reminiscent of school. It is an unlikely setting for the raucously noisy proceedings which follow.

Just imagine the clatter of those hundreds of diners drowned by an amplified cabaret of singers, incomprehensibly fast comedians, and audience participation acts of the mildly suggestive kind which parents think they may be going to be worried by any minute. It is a very French and local occasion.

The meal is very fishy of course, followed by *entrée de poisson*, and then *plat principal de poisson garni*. After that there is coffee and pudding. An appetizer and a bottle of wine complete the menu served promptly as the tables fill up.

This year the fish festival begins next Saturday and runs until the 26th, ending Monday, the 20th when the Casino will be shut. Dinner is served from 7 pm nightly. Tickets cost 50 francs (about £4.50), 30 francs for children under 10. They can be bought at the door or booked in advance and picked up at the door of the Casino on the Boulevard Ste. Beuve, near the beach. To reserve tickets write to Monsieur Jean Caron, Hotel de Ville, 62321 Boulogne sur mer, S.C.P.



London Fire Brigade's headquarters in Southwark Bridge Road, March 1909.

Exhibition/Ben Weinreb Homes of the old brigade

The history of the handsome and impressive fire stations erected throughout London in Victorian times is vividly told in contemporary photographs and drawings in an exhibition which opened this week at The Heinz Gallery of the Royal Institute of British Architects. It has been assembled by Andrew Saint, one of the editors of the great *GLC Survey of London*.

The story begins in 1833 when the insurance company brigades and the "parish" engines were merged into the London Fire Engine Establishment. The need for rationalization was reinforced the following year when the Houses of Parliament were burnt down. Carlyle saw the fire and wrote in a letter: "The crowd was rather pleased than otherwise when the breeze came as if to encourage it. There goes their hats (acts) they called, 'a man sorry I did not see anything' said, and he concluded, 'it may produce consequences not generally foreseen'."

But growth was slow until the disastrous Tooley Street fire of 1861, which the insurance companies, the Government and the Metropolitan Board of Works into action. The Government report of 1866 resulted in the establishment of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. The first commander was a Captain Shaw. "An Irish protestant army officer of aristocratic background, Shaw raised the prestige of the Brigade to great heights. Forceful, independent, fearless, bold, loyal to his men yet at ease in society, irrepressibly frank and a formidable disciplinarian," says the highly informative guide to the exhibition.

He also caught the romantic imagination of the public. "O ade with cold cascade Quench my great love I wonder," sang the Queen of the Fairies in *London*. To ensure physical strength, endurance and a head for heights Shaw insisted that all new firemen should be examined. They had to live at the fire station under almost foetal conditions - a common dormitory, a mess room and meagre washing facilities, with a flat roof for drying clothes. Married quarters consisted of two rooms. There was also a watch room and stabling for the horses.

Twenty-six new stations were built between 1867 and 1871. They were designed by Edward Cressy, who called himself "Architect to the Metropolitan Fire Brigade". His buildings were in a "solid, sober and functional style, with facings of main bricks relieved with red bands, Minion tiles and Portland dressings". He was followed in 1870 by Alfred Mott who changed to "secular gothic". His buildings vied with those of the London School Board, raising their imposing roofs like mini cathedrals above the flat acres of two-storey back-to-back workmen's housing.

Equipment and conditions improved over the years: hand pumps were replaced by steam and in 1889 the London County Council took over from the Board of Works. Fabians and radicals agitated for better terms of service including pensions, compensation for death or injuries and some relaxation of Captain Shaw's rigid and autocratic control. In

1891 he had had enough and resigned.

It was not until 1922, however, that a shift system became fully operative. By then horse-drawn engines had given way to motors and the other equipment kept pace with current invention. All these changes are themselves reflected in the changing shape and size of fire stations.

The exhibition also touches upon building regulations, which began with an Act for Rebuilding the City of London after the fire of 1666. "That no building or house for habitation whatsoever be hereafter erected, but with such materials as are hereinafter particularly appointed, that all the outside of buildings be henceforth made of brick or stone..." This and other acts were consolidated into one of 1774 which strove to ensure that houses were soundly constructed and property separated.

Out of it has grown the building inspectorate which advises, and controls every structure from the Nat. West Tower to a garden shed. So experienced and sensible are their regulations that one wonders how even a modest fire could have the temerity to raise its flame.

If statistics did not prove otherwise, fires might now be regarded as an endangered species and a group of serious and historically-minded preservationists would be lobbying for their protection. Desist, the devil is not in danger and fire fighters, though their appearance belies it, are on the side of the angels.

The Times Diary Quiz

Our regular teasers for the weekend. As usual, the questions get progressively more difficult. As before answers in Monday's Diary.



Another bottle of champagne for the reader who sends the funniest caption to this picture, which appeared in *The Times* earlier this week. Entries, on a postcard please, should be sent to: Peter Watson, Diary Quiz, *The Times*, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ, and should arrive by first post next Thursday.

Runner-up in last week's competition was Mr. John Murr of Bangor in Co. Down (who won the week before) for "Coup de Grace". The winner was Mr. David de Berker of Guildford in Surrey for "Well, he never used to wear nail lacquer..."

1. How old was Ayatollah Beheshti?
2. Complete the series: New York, London, South Shields, ...
3. Tancerville and Nailstone, Leicestershire, were formerly linked this week: how?
4. What is usually red or black but sometimes yellow, green, purple, orange and brown?
5. Barbara Barts and Sybil Sheridan should be less familiar than most with the answer to the last question. Explain.
6. Last week was a second shorter than the one before: why?
7. Something else was 30 seconds too long, according to some people. What was it?
8. Who was the link between Whitehouse and Ware-house?
9. The Dalai Lama was in London, en route for the USA. How many others before him have borne his title?
10. Who appears to be more at home at the Reform Club than at El Vino's wine bar?
11. Who is "barrister by training, an economist by profession, a statistician by instinct and a journalist by inclination"?
12. Why was Harvest Festival in the news at this time of the year?
13. What will Lady Diana Spencer not do that both the Queen and Princess Anne did?
14. It costs each man, woman and child how much each week to support the Civil Service?
15. Who burned a groove on a grand piano with his cigarettes, and when his host complained, said: "It doesn't affect the tone."

Dan van der Vat

In the wake of Odysseus

As one of the world's less active holidaymakers who has never hitherto gone beyond leisurely contemplation of the sea, the scenery or other people's cultural treasures, I approached my first taste of an "activity" holiday on a small boat in Greek waters with more than the usual scepticism in my baggage.

I also took an illustrated copy of Homer's *Odyssey* as an aide-memoire of a mostly forgotten classical education, for we were to sail among the Ionian Islands including Ithaca, of which Odysseus was king, and which it took him nine years to find again after the Trojan War. Having reached Gatwick in time to catch the distressingly early charter flight to Corfu (the reward was the finest hot British breakfast I have had in the air, supplied by Air Europe), we reached that northernmost island of the Ionian chain off the north-west coast of Greece in time for an alfresco lunch for which the menu invited us to "rise with meat".

From there we went on by ferry and coach to Nidri on the east coast of the island of Lefkas, where we spent our last night ashore in a clean and simple room in a villa after nearly 12 hours en route and an encouragingly cheap but lavish meal.

The next day we took to the boat, a 28-foot Cobra sailing cruiser with four berths, two sails and a diesel engine, a solid, modern British craft built with safety in mind and capable of being handled by one person who knows boats if, as with us, the other three are tyros. We soon began to learn that on an activity holiday, the activity is the holiday in the same way as the medium is the message. There was always something to be done.

We were to sleep on the Zephyros, as she was named. Living in a caravan is good training for this except that you cannot leave the boat for a walk before bed, and caravans, usually rock you to sleep. The complicated but clean lavatory is seldom occupied for long because the fiendish designer ensured that it was at least an arm's length away from the entrance round in it without opening the door. Shaving



Tied up for the night in Cephalonia.

under way induced curvature of the spine, bruised elbows and bumps on the skull: a self-powered shaver would have been useful to bring.

After some splendid swimming off a blazing hot mainland beach (it was only the end of May and in the 80s Fahrenheit), where we met a flotilla of dinghies crowded by enthusiastic learners we made for our anchorage off the small island of Meganisi. Here a cultural experience unlike any other in decades of travel lay in store.

We went ashore to join some 30 other dinghy or cruiser holidaymakers for supper at what must be one of the world's most eccentric restaurants. It is run by a man who introduces himself as "Bill the Greek", a former seaman with a magnificent *idiot fixe*: that all tourists, especially the British, like one food.

A notice of singular accuracy proclaims in English: "Live music and dead chickens (obviously)." The choice is between a whole chicken, half a chicken, a quarter-chicken or eggs. If

these run out you may get Spam. But there are the usual delicious side dishes the Greeks produce to accompany any meal, and reserves of wine can always be fetched from the neighbouring "Bill's the Chicken Licker Store" (sic). It turned into an inexpensive, gentle riot around an endless trestle table laid out along the village street of Spartochori, on top of a hill. The liquor and the finger-lickin' chicken were rather good.

The next day we sailed on, to Sivota at the southern extremity of Lefkas, with a close look at the Onassis private island of Skorpios on the way, complete with its fake beach, imported sand, I shall remember Sibota for its donkeys which brayed in agony or ecstasy across an echoing bay all night. As usual, there were no mooring problems or fees, and as usual someone fell in when making the tricky transition from rubber dinghy to yacht on the way back from a waterside taverna.

The following day took us to Ithaca in a stiff afternoon

breeze when the sturdy Zephyros proved she could sail. We went ashore at Port Vathi to face up to the great decision of the day: whether to honour the Odysseus drive through as far as possible on the way somewhere else. The docks are all most of us know of the place except the route out of town. It does have other attractions, however, as those who have stopped to shop or eat have discovered for themselves.

It also has a little known seasonal attraction, the annual *fiesta de poisson*. Being a fishing port, Boulogne makes quite a thing of its fish festival at which up to 900 people sit down to a fish dinner in the Casino. It is a novel spectacle which occurs nightly for two weeks and anyone can join in.

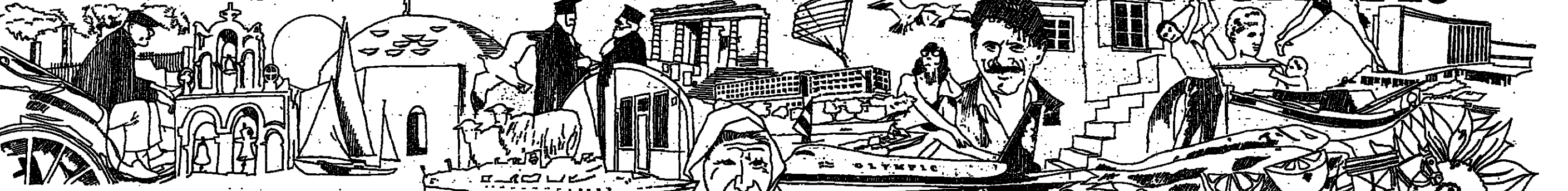
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Greece is Great in Autumn.



ATHENS - When the soft Autumn sunshine continues and the crowds dwindle, that's a delicious time to visit Athens, divine city of Greece. Stroll up to see the Parthenon, the most glorious symbol of civilisation, visit the museums, the Agora, the Plaka... talk to the sponge-sellers or sit in the little kiosk-cafes and savour the real Greece in its food and its people. It's all very relaxed in Athens at this time of the year.

CRUISES - In the Autumn it's easy to wander down to Piraeus harbour and buy a ticket for a cruise to the legendary Greek Islands. Go for a day or go for a whole week; either way it will be one of the greatest experiences of your life, whether you choose a luxury cruise ship or an island-hopping ferry. (And there's still time to book a last minute cruise).

HOTELS - You will want to the hospitality of Greece's hotels from the 5-star luxury of the international hotels to the quiet charm and friendliness of a taverna. And you'll discover that Greeks do everything to make sure you return. (And if you phone now, you can still book in Athens for last minute holidays).

FLIGHTS - You can reach Athens and the Greek Islands from most of the important cities in Europe by Olympic Airways, the National Airlines of Greece. On a "Whispering Giant" A300 Airbus or Boeing jet, in just a few hours you'll be sitting in the Greek Autumn sunshine, playing Gouzo, and watching the world drift by.

ACTIVITIES - There's so much to do in Greece in Autumn... swim in the Aegean... play Golf... go sailing... eat out-of-doors... visit... pick flowers... talk to a fisherman. Greece's holiday season lasts right through the year. Ask your travel agent for the Autumn details and for minute bookings for Athens' Hotels and Cruises... then relax.

greece
The 365 day Holiday

[illegible]

Souvenir Shoparound

What a way to treat a boom

The three weeks before any major Royal event is the boom selling time for souvenirs. So what did the Potteries do last week? They shut down for their annual holiday, leaving orders outstanding and retailers making forays to Stoke to pick up armfuls of whatever they could find marked CD even if it stood for Christian Dior.

When one suggests mildly that perhaps an industry which was almost on its last legs before the wedding boom might have considered putting off the holiday, the answer is that the workers had arranged their holidays long before the engagement was announced. Yet the total value of the bonanza is estimated at around £400m. Wouldn't a little compensation for those willing to re-arrange plans have been in order?

John Chown, managing director of Caverswall China, one of the few companies with 50 per cent of its workers still producing during this fortnight, is forthright in expressing his disappointment at the entrenched attitude of the "big boys".

"We all started designing for the wedding a couple of years ago, yet it seems we were the only company to have taken designs to the proofing stage so that we could go to the retailers with illustrated brochures as soon as the announcement was made, and we had actual wares in the shops one week after the announcement. The longer goods are in the shops, the longer there is to sell and the more likelihood of re-orders."

"The whole industry was just about getting into gear when it had to shut down, which means two or three days run down to the holiday and the same afterwards. It is throwing many men hours of work away, which gives the workers a raw deal."

So when the shops eventually get the goods they sell them all, or will you find them languishing in the January sales? What price a wedding leftover? Indeed, when so many millions of souvenirs are made, is there any value to them at all?

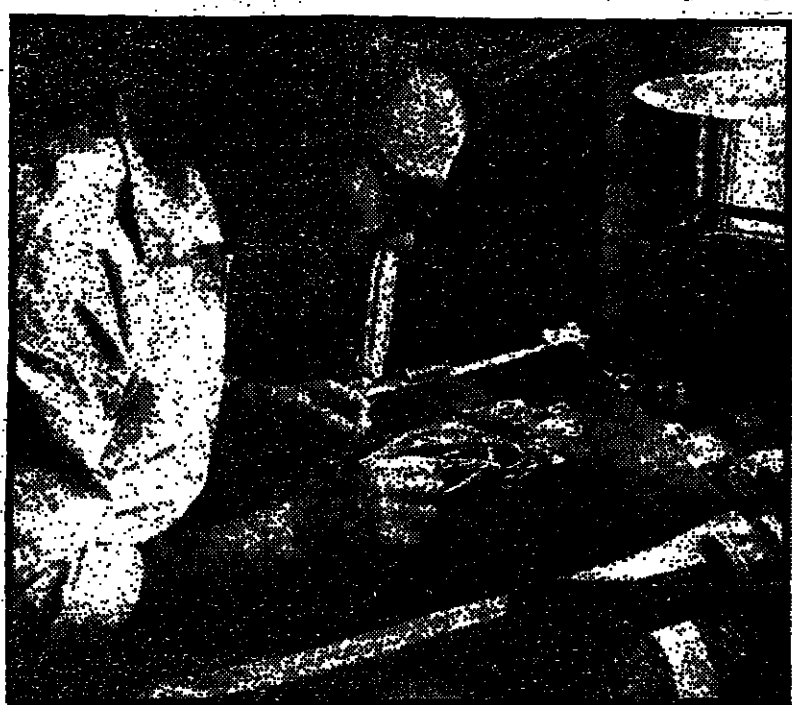
"Probably not," says David Battie, director of Sotheby's, Belgrave. "Commemoratives are not any different from any other work of art. If you produce a lot of anything the chances of it becoming valuable are immediately reduced."

"In 1897 the country went mad over the diamond jubilee and almost as many commemoratives were produced for that as for this year's wedding. The result is that you can pick up a diamond jubilee piece today for as little as 5s."

"If you are thinking of buying a modern commemorative as an investment you are talking about 150 to 200 years before you see the return on your money. That applies even to limited editions, because if you put together 500 different editions, each of 1,000, that's the same as producing an edition of 50,000 — you are swamping the market."

"If you are looking for a modern piece you hope will eventually have value you must look for quality, for something that fits into a collecting category (not a freaky object like a wooden fountain), something decorative (and nowadays of small size because people have less space), and something unusual rather than mass produced. Even so you are buying for your children if not your grandchildren."

Stephen Jackson, secretary of the Commemorative Collectors' Society, is slightly more optimistic. His estimate of some sort of return on your money is more generous — 10 years on average — but he, too, is sceptical about the investment angle. "People should



Anthony Moore at work on his unique royal souvenir. Photograph by Barbara Fisk

not be misled into thinking that within six months or a year they are going to see a fat return on their money. You just can't tell what future generations of collectors will want to buy."

Unlike many collectors, he does not stop at ceramics, but looks for all sorts of items that will give a complete picture of the occasion — tin, textiles, special newspaper editions, lapel badges. "I do have a bit of difficulty with the lollipops I have to preserve them in acrylic, but they are just as much part of social history as the rest."

On the other hand, John May, antique commemorative specialist and author of *Commemorative China* (Heinemann £12.50) concentrates on rare and valuable museum pieces in his shop at 40 Kensington Church Street, London W8. But his view of commemoratives as investments is unequivocal.

"A lot of rubbish has been talked about commemoratives — they have suddenly become respectable, but in fact they have always been a part of commerce. They were made cheaply for ordinary people to buy as souvenirs, gentlemen didn't buy them. The idea that you were making an investment was never considered."

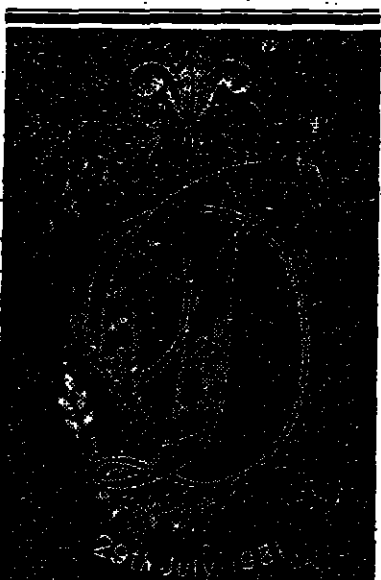
"The so-called limited edition I am quite sure is a very bad gamble indeed. There are one or two which are good, but many more which represent money thrown down the drain. Most early commemoratives have more than kept pace with inflation, but your modern piece has to increase very steadily to be worth while and you have to be able to sell it readily when you want to realize on it."

"The commemorative collectors' market is limited and you may have to wait many months before your item can be put up at a major auction. Even then you will have no guarantee that you will get the price you want."

"In the past eight years since Princess Anne's marriage a collector of royal commemoratives, which are the most popular, might have bought, say, 12 mugs. One each for her wedding, the occasion she was supposed to have been 'saved from assassination' by the Queen's silver wedding, the bicentennial visit to America, the jubilee, the Queen Mother's birthday, Princess Margaret's divorce, the deaths of Princess Alice and Lord Mountbatten and the marriage of Prince Charles and Lady Diana."

"They might have spent, say, £50. They won't now have £50 of mugs, but they will have £50 worth of fun. They are jolly and delightful things and, like any collection, when you put them all together they look good. From the jubilee of Queen Victoria, anyone can build up a decorative and intelligently composed collection. It's amazing how quickly you can get history on your kitchen dresser."

with Beryl Downing



This is the tale of the souvenir that never was — the memento of the royal wedding that everyone wanted and no-one can have — simply because its creator tried to abide by the Lord Chamberlain's rules.

Anthony Moore is an illustrator, fashion designer and lecturer in dressmaking at Marlborough school adult education in London SW3. His early training as a theatrical costumier brought him plenty of experience of what he calls the "world of satin and sequins", but until he took a course in embroidery recently he knew nothing about handling gold thread.

From his very first sampler it was clear that he had found the perfect expression for an unusual talent. He studied the techniques used on church embroideries in the V & A and began to develop his own interpretations, designing a complete alphabet in embroidery — each letter a picture in itself. It was then a friend suggested a royal cipher for the wedding.

Once the idea was born he worked at it day and night for two weeks. He swirled and couched the gold thread on crimson silk and interspersed it with clusters of beads and leaves of gold kid to add light-catching texture. It was going to be the blue print for a gift card fit for a king.

But no. The Lord Chamberlain's rules said the Prince of Wales' feathers could only be used on textiles or ceramics, not on paper. Someone suggested place mats — the design would be magnificent as a table setting — but that counts as paper, too. While other cowboys defied the regulations and got busy milking the occasion for whatever they could make, Anthony played by the rules — and lost time.

Eventually, it was decided to show the powers that be just what the public was missing. The embroidery was taken to St James' Palace and so impressed the Lord Chamberlain that he said "anyone would be honoured to have it hanging on the wall" and bent his own rule to give

permission for it to be reproduced in any way on any material, including paper.

But by that time it was too late. Manufacturers loved the design but the machinery of mass production and marketing was too cumbersome and while the Design Council lamented and rejected 1,685 out of 1,800 offerings on the grounds of "tattiness", one of the most beautiful pieces of handwork was allowed to get away.

Who to blame? A craftsman for not being a businessman? The Lord Chamberlain for making restrictive rules that can't even be enforced? A country that can produce books on sieges and disasters within weeks of the events but can't pull out the stops to make commercial sense out of artistic sensibility?

I can only show you the design in black and white, but if I ran a store or a museum or a craft centre I would make that embroidery the centrepiece of my festive window this month, so that as many people as possible could enjoy it. Maybe it's not too late.

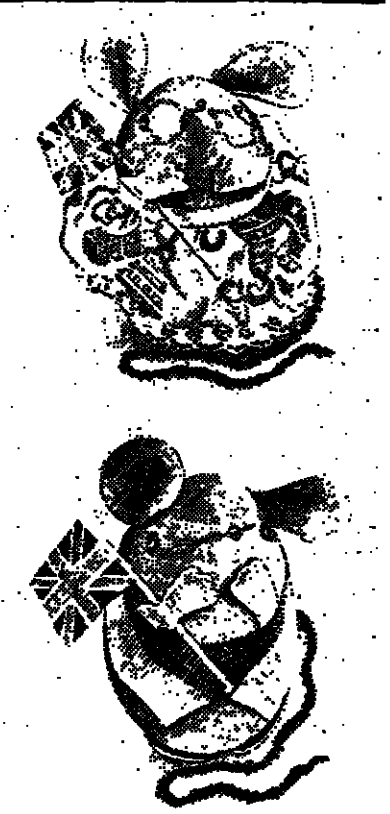
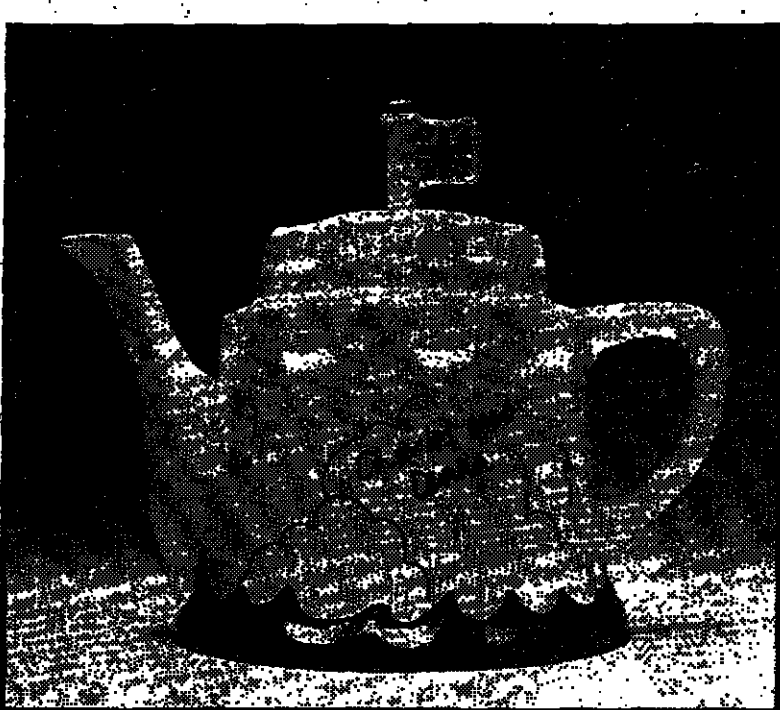
Have you a taste for fun?

Who's afraid of bad design for the royal wedding? Does anyone apart from the Design Council care that there are hideous tea towels and vacuum flasks and kites and jigsaws and plastic bags? I don't! We can all do with a little respite from gloom without being told how to enjoy ourselves tastefully.

Perhaps there are some sharp operators trying to turn July 29 into a long running series called *Bandwaggoners Walk*, but those who complain about them should remember that there is plenty of precedence.

Victorian children in the first state schools were a captive audience for jubilee mugs given by their town and these often sported a picture of their (hopefully-to-be-re-elected) mayor as well as of the Queen. Even before mass production commemorative souvenirs were designed to be cheap if not always cheerful.

So some of the items in my selection of this year's offerings are chosen for their aesthetic qualities and others for their humour or their extra touch of originality. If you want to make an investment, go to a stockbroker.

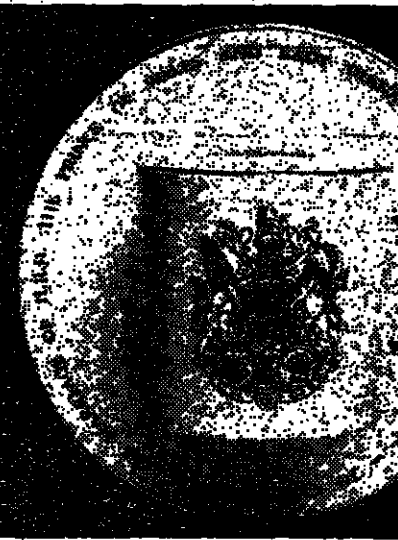


Above left, kitsch teapot topped with the Union Jack, £13.95 from Presents, 129 Sloane Street, London, SW1 and to order. Loyal mice, 3 1/4 in high in red felt, £2.75 each from Heals, Tottenham Court Road, W1. Left: Enamel box with initials, 7/4 in diameter, £12.35, enamel box with plumes and crown, 1 1/4 in diameter, edition of 750, £27, thimble with feathers and initials, £12.35, plus 75p p & p on each, all by Crummes, at Peter Knight, 45 London End, Beaconsfield, and 5 High Street, Esher. Larger box also at Harrods and Mappin & Webb.



Souvenir hunters are advised to telephone the stockists mentioned before making a special journey. Stocks are low but orders can be placed.

Above: Prince Charles mug by Marc for Carltonware, £1.50 plus 75p p & p from Design Centre shops in London, Glasgow, Cardiff, Norwich and Exeter. Royal Wedding mug designed by Anna Maria Reid aged 7 and Stephen Windsor, £1.75 exclusive to Debenhams stores. Queen's ware mug designed by Carl Toms with Lord Snowdon for Wedgwood, £12.50 plus £1 p & p, and Queen's ware plate with strawberries by Richard Gault for Wedgwood, £8.50 plus £1 p & p, both from Gault, 173 Piccadilly, London, W1. Right: Heraldic coffee cup and saucer in gold on white by Royal Worcester, £9.95 from Royal Worcester Spode rooms at Harrods and throughout the country.



Which souvenirs would the experts choose for themselves? "If you absolutely insist on my making a choice I would say look for a famous designer plus a famous name in ceramics — a mug by Professor Richard Guyatt for Wedgwood."

John May, author of *Commemorative China*. "The biggest stumbling block is the handling of portraiture. I am not convinced that you can just take a snap and turn it into a design appropriate for a mug. I think the heraldic designs are the most successful."

Lord David Queensberry, professor of ceramics at the Royal College of Art and member of the Design Council's selection committee for royal souvenirs. "Look for something a little different, like a cream churn I found with the usual happy couple picture but made specially Cornish with the words 'to celebrate the wedding of Prince Charles, Duke of Cornwall'." Stephen Jackson, secretary, Commemorative Collectors' Society.

"The one I would pick for myself is the Prince Charles cartoon mug by Marc. All the rest look exactly alike — the Staffordshire manufacturers' versions of half tone photos surrounded by gold lines with letters and the date. The one with the ear has clearly been designed by someone who has considered the face and made something out of it." David Battie, director of Sotheby's, Belgrave.

And if you want to opt out of making any decisions at all, in favour of looking at someone else's selection, Sotheby's Belgrave has an exhibition at the end of this month called *Happily Ever After*. It includes examples of royal wedding pottery from Charles II to the present day, all from the James Blewitt collection of commemorative ceramics and souvenirs.

The exhibition is open at 19 Motcomb Street, London SW1, from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm from July 27 to August 28. They are also having a sale of commemorative ware, including pieces from the reigns of William IV and Victoria, on the opening day only.

The Times Cook/Shona Crawford Poole

Strawberry delights



Strawberries are an all or nothing, feast or famine fruit. Though small quantities are available, imported from the far corners of the globe, now there is an abundance of home-grown strawberries. And whether you buy them or pick your own on a fruit farm, this is the only season when they cost a small fortune as opposed to a large one.

For a few short weeks there are enough strawberries to make jams and jellies and other strawberry treats which do not require prize-winning specimens. The pick of the crop, we are all agreed, must be served with cream.

Jam calls for small berries, ripe, but only just, which will keep their shape during cooking. Jelly needs fully ripe strawberries, but the good bits of bruised fruit serve as well as perfect berries. Ice cream and other iced strawberry desserts and fools can be made with imperfect fruit, too so long as it is ripe and any damaged parts are discarded.

Everyone knows that strawberries make splendid jam, and jam makers know their reputation as a tricky fruit for this purpose. They do not have a great deal of the pectin which is necessary for a good set. Prolonged boiling after the sugar has been added will eventually produce a set but at some cost to the colour and flavour of the jam. For this reason a preserving pan with its broad base, large capacity and sloping sides, is the ideal pot.

This traditional shape is designed to encourage rapid evaporation. It also permits quite large quantities of jam to be boiled very fast without stirring over.

Strawberry jam
Makes about six jars
1.8 kg (4lb) small, just ripe strawberries
1.6 kg (3 1/2 lb) granulated sugar
Six tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Wash and rinse the strawberries. Crush a handful of the berries and put them in the bottom of a preserving pan. Add the whole fruit, sugar and lemon juice.

Heat slowly, stirring occasionally, until the sugar has melted completely. This is important, because if the sugar is boiled before it has dissolved, it may revert to its crystal form in the finished jam and make it unpleasantly gritty.

Strawberry jelly
Makes about four jars
900 g (2 lb) ripe gooseberries
300 ml (1/2 pint) water
900 g (2 lb) ripe strawberries
Juice of two large lemons
Preserving or granulated sugar (for amount see method)

As soon as the sugar has dissolved, bring the mixture quickly to the boil and boil it, as rapidly as possible, until setting point is reached. To test whether the jam will set when cold, drop a small spoonful on to a chilled plate. If it thickens and begins to form a skin it will set. A sugar thermometer will register about 220° when the jam reaches setting point.

Remove the pan from the heat, and skim off the frothy pink scum. Set the jam aside until a skin begins to form on the surface, then stir it to distribute the fruit evenly and pour it into hot, very clean jars, filling them almost to the brim. Seal the jars immediately with transparent jam pot covers. When they are cold, label the jam and store it in a cool dark place.

Strawberries and gooseberries ripen at about the same time which makes them ideal partners in a ravishingly pretty jelly. The high pectin content of the gooseberries ensures a good set, and the strawberries give the jelly its lovely flavour and colour. Use it to glaze strawberry or peach cake or, as a companion to cold meats like chicken, duck or pork.

Strawberry jelly
Makes about four jars
900 g (2 lb) ripe gooseberries
300 ml (1/2 pint) water
900 g (2 lb) ripe strawberries
Juice of two large lemons
Preserving or granulated sugar (for amount see method)

Do not bother to top and tail the gooseberries. Just wash them and put them into a preserving pan with the water. Bring to the boil, reduce the heat, and simmer the fruit until it is pulpy. Add the hulled strawberries and continue simmering until the strawberries are mushy.

Tip the pulp into a scalded jelly bag and leave it to drip overnight. (To improvise a jelly bag, line a large sieve with a well boiled and still damp tea towel. Tip in the pulp, then gather up and knot the corners.)

Next measure the strawberry and gooseberry juice and the lemon juice and put it in the preserving pan. Add 450 g (1 lb) sugar for every 600 ml (1 pint) of juice. Heat gently, stirring until the sugar has completely dissolved, then boil as rapidly as possible to obtain a set. (See jam recipe on testing for setting.) It is not necessary to seal the jelly as it boils, but when it is ready, strain it quickly through a sieve lined with muslin.

Pour the jelly immediately into hot, very clean jars, filling them almost to the brim. Fit a waxed paper disc, wax side down, on the surface of the jelly, and when it is quite cold, seal the jars with transparent jam pot covers. Label and store the pots in a cool, dark place.

Redcurrants are another fruit which combines well with strawberries in jelly. Gooseberries also make an excellent jelly on their own, or flavoured with herbs — mint, tarragon, or thyme.

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Gardening/Roy Hay

Welcome, sweet violets

to flower this year I would be grateful if they would let me know and say when the plants were last divided.

I have often bemoaned the virtual disappearance of the sticks which were so useful for supporting so many herbaceous plants — poppies, paeonies, erigerons, aquilegias and many more. When the dwarf delphiniums appeared — varieties that grew to about four feet — the pea sticks provided quite adequate support and I was really very pleased because they are the tall delphiniums that will reach seven or eight feet pose a mighty difficult problem.

So the dwarf varieties I welcomed with open arms and we can now raise these from seed offered by the leading seedsmen. We have quite a few in bloom now. The spikes are about four feet high, good and fat and the double flowers come in a fine range of blue shades. We have provided wire supports and in some cases bamboo

canes but if only we could buy the good old bundles of six foot-long pea sticks how happy we would be.

Jobs for July
Try to keep up with dead heading of herbaceous and other plants, cut down flower stems of lupins, delphiniums, poppies, paeonies and aquilegias after the flowers are over. Lift and divide irises and pyrethrums after flowering if they have not been divided in the past three years. Take and root cuttings of semi-hard shoots of shrubs such as philadelphus, weigela, diervilla, escallonia, pyracantha and cotoneaster.

Incidentally I met my old friend Frank Knight the other day and he said none of his bearded irises — varieties of *Iris sibirica* — had flowered this year and he was quite baffled by this extraordinary behaviour. If any readers' irises have failed

particularly susceptible to the sulphurous atmosphere of industrial areas and around London where there used to be thriving violet nurseries these are disappearing when polluting industries were set up near them. Now, with clean air zones being designated in many areas, perhaps violet growing will once more provide employment for many years.

Not so long ago millions of bunches of violets were sold annually in Britain and they grew in countless gardens. In the 1930s there were flower sellers in Piccadilly Circus and all over London offering bunches of sweetly scented Parma violets. When I was a boy I bought a bunch of violets which I bought with the coppers I had saved from my father's subsidy by walking to work all that week.

In the past 10 to 15 years violet growing has declined, although cloches and modern cold frames have been produced in vast quantities. There may be various reasons for this: violets do suffer somewhat from pests but not more so than many other plants and we now have far better insecticides than were available even 10 years ago. Roy E. Coombs in his excellent book *Violets* (Croom Helm £6.95) says that violet growing was a commercial production, has previously expanded during periods of high unemployment and it will be interesting to see if this happens during our present period of unemployment.

It appears that violets are

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NO MASTER'S VOICE

One of the qualities of United States foreign policy for which its allies look most eagerly is consistency of purpose and practice. Consistency has been evident in one theme that has been present, though sometimes rather too simplistically, in all the Reagan Administration's thinking on international affairs: a determination to be tough towards the Soviet Union. Against that must be set more than the expected quota of confusion in action, and a number of areas where anything worthy of the name of a foreign policy has still to be developed.

The administration has been especially uncertain in its response to the Israeli raid on Iraq's nuclear reactor. The State Department's initial strong criticism was followed by the President's more sympathetic comments. There was a mix-up over whether or not to go ahead with the planned sale of the F16s to Israel; and the press reports of criticism from the Secretary of State's aides for the way in which Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the head of the American delegation to the United Nations, had handled the Security Council negotiations on the vote condemning Israel.

This whole episode was bound to cause difficulties for the United States Government, which was inevitably caught between the conflicting pressures of international opinion and the Jewish Community at home. But the way in which it handled these matters was evidence of an administration in which the making of foreign policy is not properly coordinated. That impression is confirmed by the inability to produce an adequate policy at

all in such critical areas as Africa and the Middle East. Nor is there confidence or clarity about American intentions in Europe. The trouble may be ascribed to the shooting of the President at the end of March. The process of formulating policy at home and abroad was bound to be slowed down during his recovery. But that is only a small part of the explanation. Mr Reagan is not a deep thinker on foreign policy matters. In its conduct of international affairs there has to be a dominating figure, other than the President, with the authority to coordinate policy in this field.

There have been two ways in which previous administrations have met such a need. The role can be filled by the Secretary of State, as in the case of Dulles under Eisenhower, or Dr Kissinger in the second Nixon administration and under President Ford. Alternatively, there can be a dominant National Security Adviser, as with Dr Kissinger in the first Nixon administration. The worst of all worlds is to have an uninvolved battle for power between the Secretary of State and the National Security Adviser, as occurred between Mr Brzezinski and Mr Cyrus Vance almost throughout President Carter's term of office.

Mr Reagan's preferred solution was for this function to be performed by the Secretary of State, Mr Alexander Haig. This followed the example of the Eisenhower years and was in accordance with Mr Reagan's own declared belief in Cabinet government. But Mr Haig overplayed his hand. There was his

attempt to secure control over crisis management himself, rather than quietly accept the President's wish that this task should be given to Vice-President Bush. Then there was Mr Haig's lack of performance on television shortly after the President was shot when he gave the impression of grabbing the limelight for himself.

Mr Haig found himself as a consequence in conflict not with the National Security Adviser, Mr Richard Cheney, who has been playing a subsidiary role in accordance with Mr Reagan's wishes—but with the triumvirate of principal advisers in the White House: Mr Edwin Meese, Mr James Baker and Mr Michael Deaver. Mr Haig's power has been cut to the point where he is an influential voice among others, but not the dominating figure in formulating foreign policy. The triumvirate have made this the best run White House for some time. But their expertise and experience do not lie in international affairs. They cannot themselves, for the time being at least, be the principal creators of foreign policy.

This means that the misfortune of Mr Haig, who has left a vacuum in the very place where it is most disconcerting for America's allies. Nobody is dominant in making foreign policy at the moment. Individual decisions depend upon the balance of influence on particular occasions between the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defence, Mr Weinberger, who is close to Mr Reagan; the triumvirate; and Mr Allen. It is by no means an ideal arrangement, but it is one in which the allies may have to live for some time to come.

COMING TO THE RESCUE

That most spectacular, and most expensive, of commercial actions, Burmah Oil's suit against the Bank of England for taking "unfair and unconscionable" advantage of the company in the state rescue operation of 1974-5, ended in the High Court yesterday with the judgment that was always most likely. The thousands of small shareholders that made up Burmah may have felt harshly treated by the price at which their 32 per cent holding in BP was taken from them by the Bank. Only a few months later the share price, depressed partly by government threats of nationalizing the North Sea, had more than tripled in value.

But, as the judge pointed out, the hard facts of the case were that a company long-renowned for a Scottish sense of prudence had gone amuck in the heady days of the early seventies, had overstretched its resources in purchasing companies and tankers, and had been caught out by the energy crisis. It was a commercial company taking commercial risks. Without a government rescue, the shareholders would have ended up with a company in liquidation and no return to themselves at all.

As it is, Burmah has survived, albeit in truncated form; and it has prospered. It would be surprising now if the board, which has always taken a reluctant attitude to the share-

holders action group which forced them to take action, pursued the case into Appeal and the Lords in the face of so total a rejection by the High Court. Yet a sense of "unfairness" has always hung over the affair. It partly stems from the divisions between the Bank of England and the Treasury which became apparent during the rescue operation. The Bank would have preferred a more gentlemanly approach. It offered in the early days of negotiation to share any of the profits made on subsequent sales of Burmah's shareholding in BP. It seemed at least from some of the evidence, to have kept Burmah as undamaged as possible by the affair.

The Labour Government of the day, on the other hand, saw more political opportunities. Pledged to nationalize the North Sea, anxious not to appear in the guise, yet again, of the saviour of bankrupt private companies, and eager to give a boost to its fledgling state oil concern, it seized the opportunity not only to exact a harsh bargain on the price paid for the BP shares but to exact the promise of state participation in Burmah's North Sea production and, later, to purchase most of its North Sea assets.

That is why the Conservatives, in opposition, declared some support for Burmah and why ministers such as Mr David Howell, the Secretary of State

for Energy, remain so embarrassed by the action now. Yet the moral that can be brought is not exactly what they might wish. One again, the Bank of England is divided in its views from the Government. Indeed relations between the Governor of the Bank and the Treasury have never been worse. And once again it is the Bank of England that is seeking more assistance and a less rigorous economic climate for British manufacturing companies.

The politics of oil have long since changed. Burmah is a better, leaner company today as a medium-sized corporation with middling ambitions compared to the heady hopes of becoming the eighth major oil company in the world that so seized some of its management a decade ago. But the problem of industrial rescues remains. What Burmah showed was that immediate commercial circumstances, so dire at one moment, can improve dramatically within a short space of time. Whatever the precise motivations of the Government and Treasury at the time, a concern for the company as such and its future role in the economy soon slipped to the background. The fear now must be that another similar collapse—and several major companies are close to it if the recession continues—would bring no better coordinated or reasoned response.

THE HIGH-SPEED KIPPER

Perhaps today's schoolchildren are less clear than yesterday's about how many fingers there may be in 40, but they all know as well as ever what it is that has teeth, fins and travels overland at 100 miles an hour. It is a British Railways kipper, as it has been (give or take a GWR or an LNER) for as long as there have been trains and kippers to serve in them. There is more satisfaction to be had from a joke that has been well broken in than from trying to exploit the similar possibilities latent in the rollovers served aboard Concorde. Trains and kippers go naturally together (it is to do with the smoke), and the joke may well endure long after the real connexion is severed.

For the connexion is under threat. BR is puzzled to find that its cooked breakfast (on offer now at a mere £5.45) is becoming less and less popular. Other cooked meals are in still smaller demand. Today nearly half of all rail breakfasts make do with a continental breakfast, while only 15 per cent did so ten years ago. The search for economies impels BR to ask whether the next generation of carriages need be equipped for serious cookery at all. Natural wastage among chefs and rolling stock would do the rest.

Public pressure may still

affect the outcome. Ten years ago, Lord Olivier almost single-handedly saved the kipper on the Brighton Belle, that elegant last survivor from the Pullman era. He was Director of the National Theatre at the time, and he and his wife, Joan Plowright, were daily commuters together between London and Brighton, silently leering, scowling and mouthing unrelated lines from plays on a train. To the alarm of fellow travellers they were sustained in this strenuous routine by kippers in scrambled egg. When BR dropped it from the menu, Lord Olivier stirred up a chorus from theatre lovers and kipper lovers everywhere. The railway gave in, but soon afterwards got its own back by withdrawing the Brighton Belle itself, kippers and all. Similar tactics may be expected next time also.

In the ideal railway that exists only in the imagination, where the engines pour out smoke that somehow never leaves a smut on the coachwork, and bafeul spinster companions out of Agatha Christie sit brooding over cyanide in one compartment, while some bedraggled agent out of Graham Greene passes the time in self-doubt in the next, it is always kippers for breakfast in the dining car furnished in brass, inlaid walnut, moquette and

lincresta, where the white-jacketed old retainers on the railway lean deferentially over the traveller to assure him that all kippers served on the train are cured in the fumes of their own locomotives—a process imparting a special aromatic quality, the firebox being fuelled largely with the butts of last night's Havana cigars from the smoking-car.

Perhaps there never was such a thing as a young graduate, later to become Bishop of Exeter, with its legendary cuisine (which reduced our own Correspondent, de Blowitz, to rhapsodies on the inaugural service in 1883) seems often to have been a patchy experience. Many travellers found that the French cooking was left behind at the Alps, that the Italian was less good, the Yugoslav less good again, and that there might be no food at all from Bulgaria onwards. Johnny Morris, travelling in the 1950s, was grateful to fall on a meal of bread, potato peelings, dried peas and scourgings from a saucepan which sizzled publicly on an ancient kitchen range at one end of the compartment, at the other end of which was a bank of blankets for the waiter to doze down on between orders. It was primitive, but at least it was a square meal. The time may come when we yearn wistfully for railway cookery even on those terms.

based on a steady and sustained expansion of the British economy. The scheme we propose would quite deliberately not be confined to the unemployed, but would be available to persons within the 16-25 age range irrespective of job situation, class, sex, colour or academic attainment, and would thus embrace the middle-class high-flyer as much as the working-class jobless.

Secondly, whatever the German system of compulsion by making unemployment benefit dependent on accepting a job opportunities or training place, and however much

Mr Prior may approve of such a system, there can be no question of the signatories of this EDM agreeing to compulsion of such a kind. What we are proposing has nothing to do with forcing people to do anything, nor with conscription, nor with restricting military service, nor with taking away jobs. It is specifically about what it says it is about, voluntary community service.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MEACHER,
House of Commons, SW1.
July 1.

Community service
From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham West (Labour)
I welcome your report (June 29) on the early-day motion which 50 of my colleagues and I have tabled in the Commons in favour of a voluntary national scheme of community service, but it is misleading on two counts.
Firstly, it gives the impression that the crime aim of the scheme is to combat youth unemployment. It is not. That can only be effected by an alternative economic strategy

Role of the forensic scientist

From Professor S. S. Kind
Sir, The recent appeal case in Edinburgh which cast doubts on the integrity of my colleague, Dr Alan Clift (report, June 20) highlights the difficult position of the forensic scientist after he leaves the witness box. Unlike his medical colleagues, who may comment to the press as freely as they wish, the forensic scientist is a civil servant and is subject to the rule which says he should not make comment to the press on any controversial subject of interest to his department.

This sensible rule was promulgated because of the possibility that the views of an individual could be taken to represent the official view, but its working has been to the disadvantage of forensic science and of no perceptible value to the Home Office.

The increasing rôle of the forensic scientist, both in the detection of crime and decisions of the courts, requires public discussion by, inter alia, forensic scientists themselves on many subjects, including whether or not they should be civil servants.

Unhappily, at the present time, this view is only publicly voiced by those forensic scientists who believe, probably unwisely, that their position is sufficiently well established for them to ignore the rules.

Yours etc.,
STUART KIND,
President, the International Association of Forensic Sciences, Herods Gate, 52 London Road, Hampshire, SP10 2PR, June 28.

Status of Tibet

From Mr J. Billington
Sir, The presence of the Dalai Lama in London this week is a reminder of a problem that the world has shelved but not solved. China's military occupation of Tibet, like the Soviet Union's occupation of Afghanistan, saw the sacrifice of a small state to the strategic demands of a great power.

Tibet does not share, and never has shared, a common culture with China. Tibetans do not think of themselves as owing any allegiance to China. Tibetans both inside and outside Tibet are not, and never have been, government as representing them—the government of the Dalai Lama which has been in exile in India since 1959.

Despite the rosy propaganda presented by China and its sympathizers the truth is that after 31 years of Chinese rule the demand by Tibetans for total independence is now stronger than ever. China itself has admitted that it "has made mistakes" in Tibet and that there is "widespread and serious unrest" among the Tibetan population.

China is a great nation and a great culture, but its record in Tibet has not been that of a civilized people: it has been barbaric, destructive and intolerant in the extreme. The culture of Tibet has been almost erased, the country's wealth systematically looted and its natural resources exploited for the benefit not of Tibetans but of Tibet's gigantic neighbour.

Britain is the only country in Europe to have had diplomatic relations with this remote people, whose quiet voice and non-violent stance on the international scene may allow us to forget that a deeply religious race has long opposed totalitarianism in Asia, and fought for the right to determine its own destiny, as heroically and tenaciously as Poland is now doing in Europe.

In the interests of the restoration of fundamental human rights and of long-term peace in central Asia, we hope that moral pressure will be applied to China by Britain and India at every opportunity, to restore Tibet to its former status as an independent buffer state separating China from Russia and India. Only then will the Dalai Lama be able to return, and his people want him, in Lhasa.

Yours faithfully,
J. BILLINGTON,
10 Burton Road, Repton, Derbyshire, June 29.

Pretty pass

From Mr L. R. Jebb
Sir, Why all this fuss about passports (report, June 23)? Nearly 20 years ago, a young graduate, later to become Bishop of Exeter, had to put up with all this and worse, as witness the following:

County of the City of Dublin to Wit: John Jebb of the City of Dublin Gentleman, came this day before me and made oath on the Holy Bible that he is a Scholar of the House of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity near Dublin and that he has taken the Degree of Bachelor of Arts and is resident in the said College, and that he is taking a Tour on foot thro' parts of England and Wales for the purpose of Information and Amusement in Company with John William Reid Gent. and Hugh George MacKlin Gent. both Scholars, and Bachelors in the said College and that he makes this Affidavit to Avoid the Danger of any Suspensions that might arise against him. John Jebb.

Sworn before me at the Mansion House Dublin 1st day of July 1796—Wm Worthington.

The following is a Description of the above-named John Jebb. He is about 20 years of Age, of the height of 5 feet 8 inches, is very dark, has a small head, sharp face, prominent lips, Stoops very much in the shoulders, turns out his Toes very remarkably and wears his own Hair cut Short. All of which I the Right Honourable William Worthington, Lord Mayor of the City of Dublin Do Certify.

Given under my hand and Seal of Office this 1st day of July 1796. Wm Worthington Lord Mayor City Dublin.

The later envelope in which this was stored was marked "Trump's Passport". It would be interesting to know when it ceased to be necessary for student travellers in this country to carry such a document.

Yours faithfully,
L. R. JEBB,
The Lyth, Ellesmere, Shropshire, June 29.

Ownership of 'The Observer'

From Mr David Astor
Sir, If the Government agrees to Lorrho acquiring The Observer it is hard to see how that paper can avoid either being dead or unrecognizable within three years. Lorrho ownership will tend to alienate The Observer's present readers, who are politically liberal and interested in culture. And these readers will not be easy to replace. The Sunday Times and Sunday Telegraph know very well how to hold on to theirs. So, if a Lorrho-owned Observer became desperate, it would be driven towards the Sunday Express's market, where it would either be transformed or die.

The suggestion of "independent" directors, paid by the proprietor, is modelled on a device invented by Lord Shawcross, which was described by the Monopolies Commission itself at an earlier date as "window-dressing". This system would only cease to be a pretence if

there were recourse to a genuinely independent outside arbitrator.

So, why did the Government recommend this arrangement and why is the Secretary of State, in the main (report, June 30), accepting it? Perhaps because it has seemed the easiest way out of a difficult situation. There was no alternative: an alternative ownership was made known to the commission, the Department of Trade and Industry, Richard during the commission's hearings: a partnership between one of Australia's best newspapers (The Melbourne Age, edited by Michael Davies) and the Aga Khan's East African group (directed by former News Chronicle editor, Michael Curran). This team would have the expertise and the liberal outlook that Lorrho lacks, and just as many resources.

The decision whether to let Lorrho have The Observer now rests solely with the Secretary of State for Trade, who has unfortunately been too busy to talk. It nevertheless is necessary to give a warning that the transfer, as proposed, is likely to be the doom of the paper.

DAVID ASTOR,
39 Cavendish Avenue, NW8 July 3.

Road or rail

From Mr John Nearstead
Sir, It has never been in question that it is technically possible to convert railways into roads, as Mr Nigel Seymour's letter (June 30) seems to suppose. It is cringingly expensive, but there have indeed been cases where railway trackbeds have been so converted, with the loss to the nation of the potential to rebuild our rail network when it is needed.

What the railway converters have so far signally failed to show is why it is desirable to emasculate or destroy the only large-scale transportation system this country possesses. It could be made invulnerable to the depletion or interruption of oil supplies. Might it venture to suggest that the existence of such a system, both here and in other countries, is at least as vital a way of preventing a war over the scramble for the world's dwindling petroleum reserves as is the stockpiling of sophisticated nuclear weapon systems, and that the cost of one Trident submarine would be spent, in the strategic interests of this country, on electrifying the bulk of the British Rail network?

Lord Duncan-Sandys (June 30) says that the prevention of war is the primary objective of our defence policy. Surely obviating the causes of war is at least as important as arming ourselves to the teeth? There are more ways than one of not killing a cat.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN NEARSTEAD,
37 Raynham Road, W6.

From Brigadier T. I. Lloyd
Sir, In doubting whether railway conversion can be a business proposition Mr Posner (June 17) shows himself ignorant of the huge financial success scored by a group of businessmen named the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. They bought an old railroad and turned it into a toll motorway. Out of their profits they paid off their bondholders years ahead of the obligation time.

The turnpike should then have passed to the State, but the latter preferred to leave it with the commission, under whom it grew

Belvoir coalfield

From Dr H. S. Torrens
Sir, In the debate over the future of the Vale of Belvoir coalfield one aspect had been strangely forgotten. When the official inquiry opened the present Duke of Rutland, who has been in the field for 213 years, reached an enthusiastic depth of 470 feet, using all the technology then available.

It seems a pity such ducal resolves have not been maintained into these more energy-hungry days.

Yours faithfully,
H. S. TORRENS,
University of Keele, Keele, Staffordshire.

U and non-U turns

Debreit did not help. Can any of your readers offer any advice please?

Yours faithfully,
M. H. J. PETERS,
HMS Osprey, Portland, Dorset.

From the Managing Director of 'Debreit'
Sir, Mrs Catherine Watson (July 1) and other correspondents are too kind to recommend that unmarried couples be given the same bedroom at a house party, etc. These observers have my wholehearted support and sympathy. Like Mrs Watson I have daughters of about the same age who, because of their common sense, their parents, and their church, have every intention of retaining their virginity.

'Debreit' documents, royal and noble families, etiquette and protocol: it does not make policy, only observes. When people like Mrs Watson and I once again represent the majority, as we did in the past, Debreit will document that good manners dictate that unmarried house guests require separate bedrooms.

Yours faithfully,
H. B. BROOKS-BAKER,
Managing Director, Debreit 73 Britannia Road, SW6

From the Bishop of Thetford
Sir, What your writer (June 25) called "the standard British code of practice for correct social behaviour" clearly means only, in morality if not in manners, "what is now fashionable in some circles".

All honours then to Mrs Katharine Watson for reminding those who value traditional Christian moral standards that "you are not at all alone".

If good manners and good morality part company much further we shall soon be told it is modern etiquette for a guest to pocket the spoons.

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY THETFORD,
Rectory Meadow, Bramerton, Norwich.

Resting place for General Sikorski

From Mr Zbigniew Leszczynski
Sir, The decision of the Home Secretary not to allow the remains of General Wladyslaw Sikorski to be returned to Poland (report July 1) is difficult to understand by a Pole, like myself, who came to this country as a member of the Polish Army in 1940 and has remained here since.

The overwhelming reason for the General to his own country at present is that it would further promote unity of the Polish people in Poland. Present achievements there are due to the striving for unity on the part of the Communist Government and the rest of the population, who are by no means communist. Since the present Polish Government is making a conciliatory gesture by asking for the General's remains to be sent back to Poland, and is supported in this request by the Catholic Church, who benefits from this request not being granted?

Winston Churchill is quoted as saying that this decision "is warmly welcomed by tens of thousands of Poles in this country and the ex-combatants' association". Is he aware that only a very small proportion of "Sikorski's soldiers" belong to this association? And how does he know that tens of thousands of other Poles want the remains to be kept here? Was there any reliable sounding of opinion made?

With equal accuracy one can claim that the decision of the Home Secretary is the decision of the Home Secretary. It is certainly a fact that thousands of Polish soldiers, soon after the war ended, returned to Poland. Is it not appropriate that General Sikorski's remains be returned there, too, and be also welcomed by some 35 million other Poles?

Yours faithfully,
ZBIGNIEW LESZCZYNSKI,
36 Miller Street, Innerleithen, Peeblesshire, July 1.

From Mr A. W. P. Lesniowski
Sir, The decision by the Home Secretary last Tuesday (June 30) to refuse the request of the Polish Government for the removal of the late General Sikorski's ashes to Poland brings months of anxiety and concern to a welcome conclusion.

Father and daughter (the late Mrs Zosia Lesniowska), who died together at Gibraltar 38 years ago today, will continue to share common soil within an English graveyard, which on his tombstone bears the dim, but as yet unextinguished, flame of hope for a free and independent Poland, unfettered by the Russian yoke.

General Sikorski remains with us, within reach of his family and of all Poles who can speak truthfully and proudly of his deeds, triumphs and hopes for postwar Poland at the height of the struggle for survival during World War II.

And may the matter should rest: rest until the victory he fought for be finally realized.

Yours faithfully,
A. W. P. LESNIEWSKI,
6 Bafford Approach, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, July 2.

Marginal importance

From Mrs F. L. Yorke
Sir, It has become fashionable for the farmer to be held responsible for the "theft of the countryside". However, I should like to propose a new candidate as the villain of the piece: the local Highway authority. After all, surely they are the custodian of the road verges?

Here in Hampshire they not only saw fit to mow the cow parsley just as it was coming into full flower, but they have now sprayed all the verges and ditches with some fungicide. The other only two miles away, reached an enthusiastic depth of 470 feet, using all the technology then available.

It seems a pity such ducal resolves have not been maintained into these more energy-hungry days.

Yours faithfully,
FREDDIE YORKE,
Three Halves, Lower Wield, Alton, Hampshire, July 1.

The old brigade

From Mr H. S. Robinson
Sir, A ten-year-old hostage of a group of terrorist civil servants who have seized a computer at Crawley.

Their intention is to cause me increasing hardship and, ultimately, to force me to beg for aid from their militant colleagues who, if their threats are to be believed, are unlikely to be either merciful or generous.

Their aim is to force her Majesty's Government to ransom my co-hostages and me for a monstrous sum. I beg the Government not to give way this blackmail.

I cannot speak for all my fellow hostages, many of whom are too old, feeble or ill even to protest, but I would ask those who are not too dodderly on their pins and who feel as I do to stand up and be counted. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
H. S. ROBINSON
9 Tor-O-Moor Road, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, June 30.

Consoling thought

From Mr J. F. C. Ducker
Sir, Wednesday's ITN "News at Ten" offered an intriguing glimpse of the preparations going forward at St Paul's Cathedral for the royal wedding which included the choir's rehearsal of the hymn "Christ is made the sure foundation".

May I leave your readers to speculate as I do on this occasion on the politics governing this choice of hymn. Reference to most hymns will identify the tune under the title "Westminster Abbey".

Yours faithfully,
JOHN F. C. DUCKER,
32 Kent Gardens, Ealing, W.13, July 1.

Stock markets	
FT Index 548.0 up 2.1	FT Gilt 65.51 unchanged
Sterling	
\$1.8935 up 95 points	Index 92.5 up 0.4
Dollar	
Index 109.8 up 0.4	DM 4.5725 up 250 points
Gold	
\$414 down 50 cents	
Money	
3 mth Euro \$ 181-182	6 mth Euro \$ 171-172

IN BRIEF

Biffen plea on trade with Japan

Mr John Biffen, the Trade Secretary, has predicted a slow recovery for British industry—providing Japanese output is kept under control. Speaking in Gloucester, he said the recession had reached its lowest point and there were now signs of recovery. But he warned of the Japanese threat. Because of their new import restriction agreement with the United States, the Japanese would seek other outlets for their narrow range of products, he said.

Osprey charge denied

British Shipbuilders was yesterday ordered by the High Court to make disclosures relating to confidential information about the patrol craft built by Osprey naval architects and designers of Guernsey. Osprey alleges infringement of design copyright, while BS denies the charge. A hearing of the case is scheduled for the autumn.

Scots 'too modest'

Scottish companies were in danger of losing business and jobs because they were too modest about their achievements and sold themselves short, Mr Robin Duthie, chairman of the Scottish Development Agency said yesterday at the opening of workshops at the site of the former Singer factory at Clydebank, near Glasgow.

Rally for the pound

The pound managed a small rally on the foreign exchange markets yesterday, although it ended below the best levels of the day. It closed at \$1.8935, with a net rise of 95 points. Against a basket of currencies, the pound's index rose 0.4 to 92.5. The dollar was also firmer.

Estimates revised

The Government's revised spending estimates and summer supplementary estimates, laid before Parliament yesterday by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, seek approval for net additional spending of £218m.

Boussac reprieve

The French Government has told union officials it will keep the Boussac Saint Frères textile group functioning for the next three months while a solution to the company's financial difficulties is found.

Bourse order revoked

Consob, the Italian Bourse supervisory commission, has revoked the order imposed on June 16 limiting dealing to cash transactions only, to halt panic selling in Milan.

Car chiefs' plea

A team of motor executives flew to Japan yesterday for talks in which they will again call for the slowing down of Japanese vehicle exports to Britain.

Steel quotas approval

Italy has given its formal written approval to the three part package of measures intended to phase out state aids to the EEC steel industry and restore its profitability.

Nyro jobs to go

Nyro (UK) is to make 240 out of 380 workers redundant at its Flixborough, Humberside, plant, which makes caprolactam, an ingredient for synthetic fabrics.

Mexico oil orders lost

Five foreign buyers have suspended or cancelled purchases of Mexican crude oil because of a proposed price increase.

Wall Street

There was no trading yesterday on the New York Stock Exchange because of the Independence Day holiday.

Unit trust prices

Unit trust prices will in future appear in Business News on Wednesdays and Saturdays. They are published on page 21 today.

£1,000m gilts issue to cover strike deficit

By David Blake, Economics Editor

The cost of the Civil Service strike in delayed tax revenue has gone up to between £4,000m and £4,500m, the Chancellor of the Exchequer told the Commons yesterday. Government interest payments to cover the extra borrowing have now cost an extra £70m to £80m in interest charges. The latest stage in the Government's operations to fund its deficit was announced by the Bank of England yesterday afternoon. Another £1,000m of indexed gilts will be sold to pension funds next Wednesday. Their value and the interest paid on them will be set at 2 per cent over the Retail Price Index, calculated every six months effectively seven months in arrears. The new stock is the second thousand million pound issue to the pension funds, who are the only people allowed to buy it, apart from a few small buyers who have pension liabilities to finance. It will be repayable in 25 years, much later than the previous issue which is to be redeemed in 1996 because pension funds have to plan so far ahead. The Treasury and the Bank will be watching bids anxiously

next Wednesday to see how highly the market prizes the stock. Among other efforts which have been made to ensure it is attractive, the Bank of England will allow funds to bid in nominee names, though it is taking powers to make sure it can check that the stock is actually bought by pension funds rather than going to private hands. Minimum bids will be £5,000. The first issue of indexed stock has tended to drift down with other gilts through the early summer. This has puzzled analysts because gilts have been weak and there are fears that inflation may go up again. This ought to make a stock which is specifically protected against inflation more attractive, but the indexed gilt so far seems to have been overshadowed by other Government stocks. The new stock will mean a steady stream of money flowing in to the Government throughout the summer. The first 30 per cent of the price is due next Wednesday, a second 50 per cent on August 14 and the rest in September. But these sums will not be enough to avoid further in-

creases in the money supply throughout the summer months as the Government borrows from the banks to cover its deficit. The official view is that the present money supply figures are "distorted" by the Civil Service strike and that the money will come back into the Government coffers once the strike is over, allowing it to bring money supply back into the 6 to 10 per cent guideline. There are, however, doubts about just how fast the money will come back. Roughly three quarters of the delayed revenue is unpaid income tax and the rest is indirect taxes, mostly VAT. This money is providing a boost to the economy at the moment, easing the cash positions of individuals and companies. Even when the strike is over there may be problems getting it back, particularly if the civil servants feel resentful about the outcome of the dispute. That could lead to higher output late this year and in early 1982, followed by a renewed slowdown as taxes are finally paid up.

Developing countries' deficits must be cut, IMF chief says

From Frank Vogt, Washington, July 3

The balance of payments deficits of oil importing developing nations had to be reduced if the international financial system was to remain sound, Mr Jacques de Larosière, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said yesterday. The deficit of these nations would approach \$100,000m this year, after more than doubling last year to a record total of \$82,000m. IMF projections suggest only a moderate improvement between now and 1985 in real terms, the deficit totals will continue to rise. The industrial nations must increase their aid and the volume of concessional loans to developing nations significantly, while the poorer countries must embark on comprehensive adjustment programmes. The global economic picture was sombre today, but there were some encouraging signs, Mr de Larosière said in an address to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations in Geneva. A copy of the address was released in Washington.

The IMF chief went out of his way to praise the Reagan Administration's policies and warned all industrial nations that, despite recession pressures, they must guard against protectionism, restrain public spending and secure tight money policies. He said that the industrial countries had a special responsibility in fighting inflation and that this was most apparent in this regard, the determination of the United States.

The Fund's payments projections suggested that the payments deficits of oil importing developing countries would fall this year from the equivalent of 21 per cent of exports to 18 per cent of total exports by 1985. This improvement made the problem manageable so long as the deficit nations made domestic policy adjustments and more aid was forthcoming. The IMF and the World Bank would continue to play an expanding role in securing growth in developing nations and meaningful adjustment, he said. He noted that efforts to help the developing countries in adjustment were urgent because payments imbalances of the present magnitude could not be sustained. The debt resulting from their financing was becoming increasingly burdensome and, in some cases, intolerable. Mr de Larosière did not mention the aid policies of the United States, but these are now causing international concern as the Reagan Administration strives to make cuts in aid flows.

New Irish coal deal expected

By Anne Warden

Another export agreement for British coal is expected to be agreed soon, the National Coal Board said yesterday. The order, for a possible 400,000 tonnes a year, would be from the Irish Cement Company. The company already uses between 100,000 and 120,000 tonnes of British coal at its Limerick works. The new order would supply the plant with its latest in a long line of European cement makers to switch from oil to coal.

According to the board, British companies, which converted to oil from coal in the late 1950s, have been changing back in the past few years. Cembureau, the organization of cement companies in 19 non-Communist European countries including Britain and the Irish Republic, lists a sharp decrease since 1973 in the amount of oil used and a corresponding increase in the amount of coal. Eight years ago, 72 per cent of cement makers used oil, 15 per cent coal, and 13 per cent gas, according to Cembureau. By 1980, 50 per cent used oil, 44 per cent coal and 6 per cent gas. By 1983, Cembureau expects the figures to be 19 per cent oil, 81 per cent coal, and less than 1 per cent gas.

The possible Irish order follows the announcement less than two weeks ago that Britain is to export 300,000 tonnes of steel works coke to Romania. Further orders for British coke, a total of 150,000 tonnes, are expected from Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, and Albania, before next April.

Computer holiday camp

By Our Industrial Staff

A new children's holiday camp where half the time will be spent programming microcomputers will be opened this month at a school near Windsor. The novel camp, which has been arranged in conjunction with the International Association of Summer Schools and Camps, will be run until the end of August along the same lines as the traditional American holiday camps, but the children will spend half the day being instructed on computers. The remainder will be spent playing tennis, swimming, riding horses or pursuing one of many other games.

Twenty-five microcomputers have been lent to the project by Commodore and ICL, whose training centre is next to the school, is giving the organizers access to its lecture facilities. The venture is initially meant to cater for children between 5 and 15 in the London and South-East areas. A similar project, inspired by the North East Wales Institute of Higher Education was also launched yesterday—a new workshop centre where young people can test and assemble microcomputers. The centre, in a 19th-century coach house, was formally opened by Mr Wyn Roberts, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Welsh Office.

Under the provisions of the Telecommunications Bill, which is expected to receive Royal Assent this month and would also allow the implementation of the Beesley study, the private sector will be allowed to provide telecommunications equipment for use on the network.

Sales fall in the cigarette and beer markets New tobacco price war likely

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

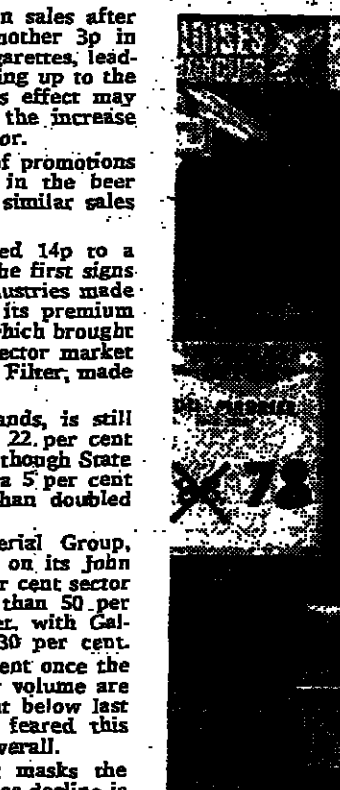
Threatened with a downswing in sales after the Chancellor's imposition of another 3p in excise duties on a packet of 20 cigarettes, leading tobacco manufacturers are facing up to the prospect of a fresh price war. BAT Industries made promotional cuts in the price of its premium king size brand, State xpress 555, which brought it at least 4p below that of the sector market leader, Benson and Hedges Special Filter, made by Gallaher.

Gallaher, part of American Brands, is still claiming little change in Benson's 22 per cent share of the king size market, even though State xpress, hitherto with just under a 5 per cent share, is claimed to have more than doubled its share. Imperial Tobacco, part of Imperial Group, responded with discounting offers on its John Player Special to buttress its 15 per cent sector share. Imperial accounts for more than 50 per cent of the overall tobacco market, with Gallaher next largest at just under 30 per cent.

Sales tumbled by up to 15 per cent once the March budget increase bit, and by volume are still running at around 11 per cent below last year's level. The manufacturers feared this year will see a 10 per cent fall in output.

Unless widespread price-cutting masks the effect of the new 3p impost, the sales decline is expected, at least for a time, to plunge back to the 13 per cent level.

The East Pennines division of Whitbread, one of the big six brewers, is the latest to bring in a lower-price brewer to try to combat falling sales. It will go into free-trade clubs from Nottinghamshire to Humberside, selling at 2p below most other free-trade brewers.



Cut price cigarettes on offer in a London shop.

Collins goes to full Panel on NI deal

By Philip Robinson

The full 13-man Takeover Panel will meet next week to decide whether the 9.5 per cent of William Collins & Sons (Holdings) bought by Mr Rupert Murdoch's News International from Mr Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press was connected with other deals made between the two.

The executive committee of the Panel decided late on Thursday that it was not. But last night Collins, which has consistently rejected NI's £25m bid, appealed to the full Panel. The appeals procedure was widely used soon after the Panel was set up 10 years ago and the rules on takeovers were being formulated. Recently it has been used only once a year. The last appeal was heard eight months ago in the Spillers/Dalgety bid battle.

Both Mr Maxwell and Mr Murdoch said the share deal took place after a meeting at which a dispute over the pricing of The Sunday Times colour magazine was resolved and agreement was reached to merge an NI offshoot into a subsidiary of BPC, where Mr Maxwell is chief executive.

In a revised offer document yesterday, Mr Murdoch says the price at which Pergamon Press eventually agreed to sell its shares was negotiated at arm's length and without any dependence on other arrangements with NI.

NI now owns 42 per cent of Collins, the majority of which was obtained from part of the Collins family. 9.5 per cent from Pergamon and around 1 per cent from Mr Jacob Rothschild's RIT.

A spokesman for J. Henry Scroder Wagg, Collins's advisers, said: "We will write to shareholders again, once the Panel has made its decision."

Telecom proposals defended

By Bill Johnston

Professor Michael Beesley, author of the Government study recommending that the private sector be allowed to provide telecommunications services in Britain, yesterday defended his conclusions in public for the first time.

At a meeting in London attended by 90 delegates representing the different sectors of the British telecommunications industry, the professor attacked those who suggested that such competition would be destructive.

British Telecom has threatened that a full implementation of the Beesley findings would require the corporation to raise a further £450m from residential customers and £135m from kiosks.

The professor had a number of supporters at the meeting, among them the Computing Services Association (CSA), whose members each year generate over £400m of business.

The CSA is the trade association which represents the interests of the companies who would be involved in the provision of the services.

Under the provisions of the Telecommunications Bill, which is expected to receive Royal Assent this month and would also allow the implementation of the Beesley study, the private sector will be allowed to provide telecommunications equipment for use on the network.

£1,000m claim against Bank Burmah case dismissed

By Rosemary Unsworth, Financial Staff

Burmah Oil's £1,000m claim against the Bank of England over its 1975 BP shares deal was dismissed yesterday by a High Court judge. The claim, believed to be the largest civil case brought in the United Kingdom, was that the Bank's purchase of Burmah's 20 per cent holding in BP for £179m took unfair advantage of the company's financial plight six years ago.

Rejecting the claim, Mr Justice Walton said he felt great sympathy for Burmah's shareholders, particularly those who had bought shares in Burmah as a cheap way of buying into BP. They had every right to feel aggrieved, he said.

The evidence clearly established that, but for the action of the Bank in coming to the rescue, there would have been a liquidation in which they would have got nothing whatsoever. There may very well be targets against whom shareholders should direct their wrath; the Bank is not one of them, he said.

The 77.8 million shares were sold to the Bank at 230p each as part of a rescue package in January 1975 when Burmah faced possible liquidation in the aftermath of the 1974 oil

crisis and the collapse of the stock market. The equivalent value of BP shares today, after a share split is more than £13.

The BP stake is now worth more than £1,000m, and Burmah sued the Bank to recover the current value. The group accused the Bank of taking unfair advantage of the company at a time of distress. It argued that the deal, on terms put forward by the Government, was unconscionable because it conferred undeserved credit on the Bank.

The judge said that shareholders owe the fact that they still have shares that are worth something in a company with a commercial future partly to the rescue package provided by the Bank in December 1974 and January 1975.

"The figures involved were so large that if there had been any slip up the consequences to the Bank might have been financially catastrophic," he said.

"It appears to me quite clear that there is the shortest of all possible answers to Burmah's claim: it is dismissed. The Bank's statement that its bargains are made to

be kept, except in exceptional and well-defined circumstances. The bargain made between Burmah and the Bank of England is one to which they must adhere."

The attitude of the Bank might have been take it or leave it but there was never anything remotely equivalent to pressure on Burmah to accept the offer, the judge said. Burmah said yesterday that it was disappointed and that it would consider the judgment in detail before deciding whether to appeal. Burmah has been ordered to pay the Bank's costs of the action and it is estimated that the oil group has spent £300,000 on the case.

Mr Jonathan Stone, secretary of the Burmah Shareholders' Action Group, said that it had been correct to pursue the case. "We are acutely disappointed at the result but it was clear during the case that the claim would not succeed," Mr Stone said. "We are grateful for the 90,000 tokens of support that have been received during the last six years and that the group had spent £70,000 on the case."

Burmah's share price, which could have risen as high as £20 if the claim had succeeded, was unchanged last night at 134p.

Plea for a rethink of social policies

By Nicholas Cole

There is a strong and justified sense that the march of the state into individual lives has gone far enough, and that an attempt must be made to stimulate personal initiative as one way of reducing public expenditure. Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, Director of the London School of Economics, said yesterday.

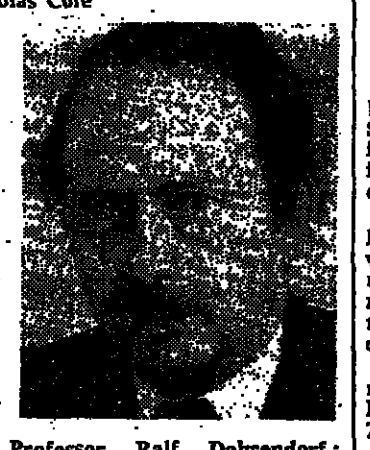
He said at a lunch held in London to mark the tenth anniversary of the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce in Britain—that social policies which were right when they were introduced may not necessarily continue to be right when circumstances have changed.

Professor Dahrendorf went on: "It is perfectly defensible to review the system of social policies, and to wonder whether it is right to invite individuals to make their own contribution to a very much higher extent than was possible before."

A useful replacement for the present "babysitting" situation could comprise a mix of community service, subsidised apprenticeships, youth opportunities and Outward Bound-type schemes.

But he regarded the payment of supplementary benefits to teenagers as "entirely the wrong way of dealing with a problem likely to be with us for some time to come."

Referring to particular areas of the economy, Professor Dahrendorf said he would not be against an educational loan system.



Professor Ralf Dahrendorf: State has gone far enough

Midland to cut 2,000 jobs

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Midland Bank plans to cut its head office staff in London and Sheffield by 2,000 over the next four years and union leaders fear another High Street bank could follow suit.

The cuts proposed by Midland, which it said yesterday will be achieved mainly by natural wastage, retirement and redeployment, represent more than a quarter of the total head office staff.

The bank said the cuts were necessary in view of profit levels and rising costs. It has 72,300 employees in all.

The bank is to carry out a detailed review of head office departments to produce a more economical structure fully responsive to changing needs.

Midland's announcement had been expected by the unions which declared total opposition to redundancies and sought an early meeting with the management. The bank said that it had no definite plans, but "it may not be possible to avoid redundancy."

Union leaders believe that Lloyds, which with Midland is much smaller than Barclays and National Westminster, could be planning similar cuts.

Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs (ASTMS), which has absorbed the Midland staff association, said last night that the union would accept the plan to phase out jobs.

"We are particularly angry that this statement was made when the association was discussing job security agreements with the bank and was insisting on full disclosure of the bank's staffing problems."

"It is demanding an absolute guarantee of no redundancy or early retirement for the next five years," Mr Jenkins said.

Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union, which represents about half the threatened staff, said that the union would discuss the need for reducing staff but it would not accept redundancies.

Insurance ombudsman is flooded with calls

By Richard Allen

The Insurance Ombudsman Bureau set up last March is already being flooded with calls for help in resolving disputes between policyholders and insurance companies.

In its first three months of operation the Bureau has received 443 inquiries. Of these 126 have concerned disputes involving the 11 major insurance groups that back the scheme.

Fifteen of these cases have been adjudged by the bureau's staff as worthy of formal investigation by the ombudsman himself, Mr James Haswell.

A spokeswoman for the bureau said last night that the highest number of problems are being submitted to the ombudsman. "This is substan-

tial evidence of a felt need for an impartial assessor of insurance disputes."

The bureau was set up by Guardian Royal Exchange, General Accident and Royal Insurance in answer to criticism that policyholders with unresolved grievances could seek redress only through the courts. The time and expense involved in such action was a "big deterrent."

The bureau reported yesterday that most of the disputes referred to it so far, 45, had involved arguments over household building indemnity cover. Motor policies figured second highest with most disputes centring on the values of vehicles written off in accidents.

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Details from the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 May 1981		
	1981	1980
Total Revenue (see below)	£3,563,592	£3,642,986
Less: Expenses	200,882	154,724
Interest	295,270	565,200
Net Revenue before taxation	£3,067,440	£2,923,062
Less: Taxation	1,158,146	961,827
Preference Dividend	38,500	38,500
Net Revenue available for Ordinary Dividend	£1,870,454	£1,902,735
Earnings on Ordinary Shares (see below)	11.04p	11.23p
Ordinary Dividends paid (net)	11.00p	10.50p
Net Assets attributable to:		
Currency Loan	£000	£000
Debture Stocks	3,052	3,063
Preference Shares	1,000	1,000
Ordinary Shares	63,868	47,931
Total Net Assets	67,920	53,335
Net asset value per 25p Ordinary Share	377.0p	279.8p

The comparative figures for 1980 have been re-stated to exclude non-recurring income equivalent to 2.63p per share, and a special dividend of 2.80p per share.

During the past year there was a significant change in the portfolio through an increase in the proportion invested overseas. At 31 May 1981 39.5% of total investments were invested in the United States compared with 29.9% at 31 May 1980. 44.2% of total investments were invested overseas at 31 May 1981 as compared with 32.7% at 31 May 1980. Moreover, foreign currency borrowings have now been repaid in full, while \$4.4 million was outstanding at 31 May 1980, or about 3.5% of net assets at that time.

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the registered office, 120 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DS

PRICE CHANGES

Rises	
Bassett G.	8p to 70p
Berkeley Ham	15p to 26p
De La Rue	28p to 74p
State Star	5p to 22p
CEC	17p to 76p
Falls	
Bass	8p to 231p
BP	5p to 310p
Chesterfield	5p to 350p
Collins W	5p to 22p
Daily Mail Tst	8p to 438p
Glaxo	18p to 386p
Hambro Life	11p to 40p
ICI	12p to 42p
Schroders	18p to 44p
Sun Alliance	13p to 92p
GN	5p to 142p
Greenall	5p to 152p
Husky Oil	20p to 70p
NCC Energy	7p to 123p
Whitbread 'A'	6p to 171p

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Gold

Prospects for investors

The sharp fall in the gold price this week has once again raised the temptation of head-some profits for those who buy at the bottom of the market. The question is at what point the decline will stop. Interest has been further aroused by the gold coins and medals being rushed out to celebrate the royal wedding.

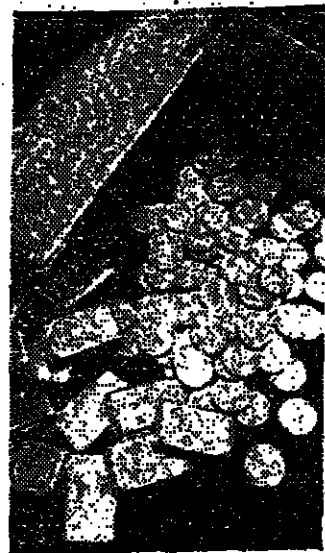
But before you reach for your cheque book it is worth pausing to consider what motivates the gold market. The price is less than half the \$850 an ounce peak reached in January 1980. There was then talk that it would climb to \$1,000. But just as the boom was swift and sharp so has the subsequent collapse baffled everyone.

Gold is historically unstable. Combinations of short-term fear—political, interest rates, sheer speculation—can generate abrupt changes. Sentiment, an even vaguer motive, also plays its unpredictable part.

In recent weeks, despite tension in the Middle East, currency swings, and pessimism about inflation, the gold market has been convinced that the price is falling. And so it has.

There is no escaping gold's highly speculative nature. Even the investors willing to hold the metal for a long time must face the attendant loss of income. So it is unwise to lock up more than say 10 per cent of a portfolio in gold. Whether this includes gold shares rather depends on the balance of equities since they pose income and tax problems.

If you want to go into gold two questions must be answered. First, in what currency will you trade? Gold is traded internationally in dollars. The result is that while the dollar gold price has fallen it has been roughly offset by the weakening of sterling against the dollar. Investors who paid for gold in Swiss francs in the mid-seventies



Coins are an easy way into gold for the small investor; gold bars, on the other hand, attract VAT—and are difficult to trade.

found that in real terms the value of their holdings scarcely changed despite the rise in the dollar price.

The second question is what kind of gold. If you want a direct investment in the metal the main choices are: bullion, coins (legal tender), or medals.

Most medals are produced for special occasions in limited numbers. It is important in assessing their value to know how much gold they contain, the fineness of the gold, the quality of the design and workmanship, and the premium charged, over and above the value of the gold content. You should also remember that the price of medals is set by the cost of the gold when it was bought for manufacture, not the prevailing free market price.

Spinks, the prominent coin and medal dealers, have issued royal wedding medals. The popular crown size, which con-

tains 45 grammes or 1.59 ounces of gold, retails for £725 including VAT. But the gold value is approximately \$650 or roughly half the price of the medal.

More popular with investors because they command only a small premium, are Kruggerands, the South African coins, maple leaves, produced in Canada, and sovereigns. Kruggerands are available in 1/10 ounce, 1/2 ounce, 1 ounce and one ounce sizes. No VAT is charged on coins which are legal tender. A full one ounce coin costs about £233 at the moment, a premium of only 3 per cent over the gold content. By contrast the 1/10 ounce versions, although selling for only £30, are at a 9 per cent premium. The present price of a sovereign is around £60 and a maple leaf £225.

Because of their standard specification and availability these coins are an easy way into gold for the small investor. By contrast, gold bars, although ranging in size from 5 grammes to 400 ounces, not only suffer from 15 per cent VAT, which may take some time to regain from price rises, but are less simple to trade.

Kruggerands, however, can be bought and sold through a wide variety of banks, stock brokers, and coin dealers who are approved by the International Bullion Association, the South African Chamber of Mines marketing arm.

A straight gamble, perhaps more in keeping with the spirit of the gold market, is offered by IG Index. This is a bet, incurring the betting levy. A gold price range is set by IG Index; a definite amount is bet for each dollar the price moves up or down from the mid-point of the range, and you win or lose accordingly. It may be an indication of which way the market is going that the company says the majority of its clients are placing bets on gold falling.

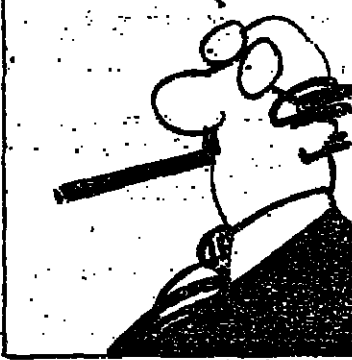
Michael Presti

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH

I SOMETIMES WONDER IF MY WORTH THE EXPENSE OF MAINTAINING A SWIMMING POOL...



AFTER THIS SUMMER'S WEATHER AND THE WAITING AROUND...



FOR MY SON'S MODEL BOAT TO BE FREED...



FROM THE PACK ICE!



Taxation

Children caught in the capital transfer trap

Why should I bother to revise my will periodically? I shall just leave everything to my wife and then she can sort it all out after my death. After all, she has two years in which to do it without creating any extra Capital Transfer Tax liability. This may seem a reasonable way to keep planning flexible and save legal fees at the same time. But many people including plenty of professional advisers aren't aware that behind the generally benign CTT legislation on this point, there lurks a nasty income tax snag when children are beneficiaries.

Under the CTT rules a beneficiary can revoke a bequest made to him or her within two years of the transferor's death in such a way that the revocation is in itself treated as if it had been part of the will.

In some cases this may be more effective than the CTT point of view. For instance if Jack dies leaving £200,000 to his wife Jill the whole lot passes to her free of CTT. But if she gives up part of this legacy so that £50,000 passes to their son this makes advantage of the nil rate band on Jack's estate. At the same time it reduces the size of Jill's estate which will in turn be taxable

on her death when, presumably the son will get the lot, after paying CTT on anything over £50,000. The savings on an estate this size could be £30,000.

While he was still alive, Jack was well aware of this basic principle of CTT planning: the trouble that the nil rate band has kept on changing. Originally, it was £15,000 then it rose to £25,000 and finally last year to £50,000. Furthermore, Jack's first priority was his wife Jill. He couldn't be absolutely certain that she could afford to give up as much as

£50,000 in favour of the child. So, in effect, he left the decision to her to take when the time came. Jack knew that Jill could rewrite the will along the lines that Jill eventually did. He had read the Finance Act 1978 section 63. He also knew that although Jill could revoke in favour of their son who, as a minor, couldn't do the same in favour of his mother.

Jack also realized that there would be no capital gains tax disadvantage. Although the assets could rise in value between the date of his death and the time when Jill made the effective transfer in favour of the son, the transfer would not trigger off a CGT charge, unlike many other types of gift.

So far so good. The legislation seems to be encouragingly flexible so that such financial arrangements can be sorted out in a civilised way after a person's death and without constantly having to make new will every time there is a change in the tax rates or a person's circumstances.

But these beneficial capital taxation provisions mask a serious income tax anomaly which could cost the family a lot of money during the period that her son remains a minor. At this point you should remember that if a parent who is still alive makes a gift to his or her minor child, then the income derived from investing the amount has to be added on to the parents own income to be taxed as such. No such aggregation can take place where the parent who made the transfer has subsequently died.

Sir Geoffrey Howe's decision last week to increase betting duty by a mere 1 per cent to 8 per cent—must seem at first glance an innocuous move. What better bet for the Chancellor than to help bridge the Budget gap resulting from the back-bench revolt over diesel duties—by soaking Britain's punting fraternity for an extra £20m?

Indeed for the casual punter, the added levy is trivial. For the once-a-year gambler who placed a five on the winning Derby favourite Shergar at admittedly cramped odds of 10/11, the additional impost would mean a reduction in total returns of less than 10p.

But for those involved in gambling on a more regular basis—on which some of the bookmakers counter they stand—the argument over betting duty runs a great deal deeper than that.

The point about betting duty—as all connoisseurs of equine or canine velocity know—is that it is taken out of turnover and not total returns—in fact out of winnings and stake money.

Off-course betting turnover in 1979 was some £2,540m, but that cash simply went round and round in a succession of

Betting Loading odds against the punter

bet and payouts. Thanks to having the odds heavily stacked in their favour, the bookmakers themselves did not go short but their total "take" was a mere fraction of that turnover. Hardened punters, of course, have come to terms with the fact that the bookmaker always wins in the end but what is anathema is the knowledge that a heavy percentage of the total gambling "pot" is being creamed off at every turn. The analogy can easily be drawn with a game of poker where 10 per cent of the winnings is taken after every single hand. On that basis a friendly card evening would not last very long.

The betting levy has in fact

long-since driven the majority of professional punters—those few gifted individuals who could actually make racing pay—from the race-tracks and the betting shops. But the big bookmakers are concerned that an ever increasing levy will eventually drive away even the infrequent gambler.

True it is hard to shed a tar for the bookmaker—the betting levy did not stop Ladbrokes increasing betting shop profits by more than £3m to £14m last year for example—but there is a more important point.

The Royal Commission on Gambling spotted it in its 1978 report suggesting that any increase in the impost could increase the danger of illegal underground betting with all its seeds of corruption, and of course the loss of Government revenue involved.

That may sound overdramatic, but then corrupt activities usually start in a seemingly innocuous way. How many once-a-year punters, for example, can recall being offered a free-of-tax bet on that Derby favourite by the office or works horse-racing specialist?

Richard Allen

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EDITED BY MARGARET DRUMMOND

Rights and wrongs of the BP share issue



Photograph by Malcolm Clarke

Mrs Ursula Andrews (above) lives in an idyllic Kentish cottage. She has three children, four grandchildren, two pear trees and a garden full of roses, writes Adrienne Gleeson. She also has a modest portfolio of stocks and shares, including 100 shares in British Petroleum which were bought

seven years ago and have been left to their own devices ever since. Until two weeks ago, that was, when a vast and complicated rights issue document, dropped through her letterbox. It told her what the company did in exhaustive detail. What it did not tell her is what she should do.

Mrs Andrews went to see her bank manager to ask his advice. He said that unless she really wanted the shares she should let them go. "He added that I'm probably too heavy in BP shares. The other things I have got (ICI and Unilever for instance, are mainly in small parcels, so I am going to let the offer lapse."

both sets of rights they should fill in the allotment letter and send it off, late next week.

If they take up the rights they have some choice about when to pay for them. In the case of the company 275p rights, only 125p per share is payable on July 13. The balance of 150p a share can be delayed until December 2.

The incentive to pay the lot all at once next week is the November interim dividend forecast at no less than the 6.25p net paid last year. Shareholders interested in income may as well pay in full and receive the dividend. Those who are more interested in capital growth—or who do not have all the money available now, might choose to stagger payments.

Mr Tony Patterson says: "Having the partly paid shares gives you a geared position in BP. If the price perks up once the issue is out of the way there could be a very useful gain by December when the rest of the money falls due. High rate taxpayers who do not need income would do best to pay for their rights in two tranches."

What if you cannot afford to take up your rights, or simply don't want to? Ignore the whole thing. It is not worthwhile for the small shareholder to sell his or her half paid rights in the market because most of the profit would go in stockbroker's commission.

In the case of a private shareholder with 50 shares—and most hold less than this—the profits from selling the rights paid at the moment would be less than £20. And the commission costs, which for bargains of less than £200, are at the discretion of the stockbroker, could be anything between £2 and £12.

You may get more at the end of all day if you simply let the rights lapse. BP will sell the rights at the end of the issue. Any premium will be distributed to those shareholders who chose not to respond.

Margaret Drummond

Mrs Andrews is not alone in her dilemma. Nearly half the 274,238 shareholders in BP have holdings of less than 250 shares. Even so, BP must for many of them constitute one of the most important shares in their portfolio.

For some, like the investors who bought them when the Government sold off part of its BP holding in 1977 and 1979, it might be the first and only share they own. After seeing the rights issue document that landed on their door-

mat two weeks ago it might well be the last.

Shareholders must decide by July 13 what they should do about this unusually complicated rights issue. Bothered and bewildered they may be but perhaps they are less than bewildered at the prospect of paying out more cash for shares about whose investment merits even the clever chaps in the City are divided. Moreover, investors who bought the government shares at 365p were nursing a capital loss even

before the rights issue was announced. The shares are now 312p.

So what are the professionals advising their private clients to do?

Mr Graham Mann, at stockbrokers Grieson Grant suggests they take up their rights if they can afford it but let them lapse if they cannot. Mr Tony Patterson at Capel Cure Myers is in agreement. He sees the yield of 104 per cent gross on the 275p company

rights as pretty good for an investor who is interested in income. Meanwhile there is the prospect of a capital gain if the shares recover in the future.

Perhaps shareholders like Mrs Andrews should look carefully to see if taking up the rights will make them "top heavy" in the oil sector of BP. For beneath the confusing figures this is a one-for-four rights issue.

Two different sets of rights are offered—one for every seven shares by the company at 275p and one for every 8.69 shares at 290p by the Government. Investors may take up just their own one-for-seven rights at 275p if they wish. If they want to take up one or

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

Year's High	Year's Low	Company	Change	Comment
Rises				
173p	93p	Collins "A"	7p to 160p	Revised bid terms
179p	135p	Commer Union	13p to 179p	Dawn raid rumours
327p	221p	Eagle Star	30p to 327p	Dawn raid
426p	284p	Racal	5p to 421p	Good figures
80p	58p	William Press	6p to 78p	Fraud case wif
Falls				
293p	228p	Assoc News	22p to 228p	Figures next week
303p	190p	Avana Group	3p to 293p	Figures disappoint
230p	138p	Currys	10p to 138p	Sector gloom
262p	180p	Granada "A"	10p to 237p	Figures disappoint
76p	67p	Imp Group	4p to 69p	Chancellor's levy

Investor's week

Pound peps up profits

Was it a nod, a twitch or an eyelid batting? Maybe it was the stock market turning over in its slumber—but whatever the FT 30 share index rose this week from 540.5 to 548.0.

It was serenely (or stolidly) indifferent to yet another upward twist in United States interest rates, a sliding pound turning glided work at the knees. The Government's continued unconcern about uncollected taxes slopping around the system, 3p a packet on cigarettes and 10p a gallon on petrol, to say nothing of the new sitting in the boardrooms of Richards & Wallington, the big crane hire group, and Norvic the shoemaker. The big banks bailed out both just months ago. Needy companies are on notice that patience runs out when losses go from bad to worse.

Do investors, the minnies moan, not see that once the tax money goes back to the Government when viceroy servants return to work, the stock market (to say nothing of companies) will suddenly be short of money? United States

interest rates could go yet higher.

Brokers Montagu, Loeb, Stanley go for 14 per cent minimum lending rate by the autumn and 15 per cent by Christmas. They think that the Government will mop up the tax money, and back will come the credit squeeze.

Other observers are not so sure. They think that monetary restraint has already begun. They do not see how business can remain flat for long now that money supply has exploded. Industry is running at well below capacity and output could well rise sharply.

They are also beginning to savour the profits industry is making from the falling pound. Just weeks ago, we moaned because the pound had sunk against the dollar but not against other key currencies or Japanese yen. Now, in the space of a month the pound is 8 per cent down against the yen and 10 per cent down against the Swiss franc.

Meanwhile, the collection of companies on a list by brokers Phillips & Drew whose profit figures are now in for the first quarter of the year show only a 10 per cent drop on a year earlier when profits were booming. Business is in good shape.

Uncollected tax money must have found its way into the 50 times over-subscription in Memet, the electronics new issue.

That reminds me, British Petroleum wants its first lump of £625m of rights issue money, at 125p a share, in nine days time. That, and a threatened index-linked Government stock could soak up some footloose money, a jolly sight more in fact than the £80m just raised by the Chancellor. Back among the companies, GEC hoisted profits £16m to £476m; a pity they are unique.

Peter Wainwright

Capital tax on house sales

I am a self-employed licensee, and live in tied accommodation. In 1974 I bought a house, near to my licensed premises with a view to the retirement of my wife and myself or, in the event, the brewery requiring the licence, to change to a managed house.

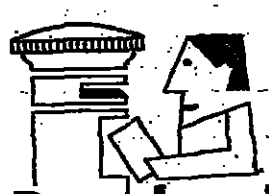
On March 22, 1979, I sold that house as the area deteriorated and considered purchasing another property, which we have yet to do. As a result, of that sale, and the brewery requiring the licence, to change to a managed house, I was charged capital gains tax. Was this correct?

I should say that my wife and I at no time lived at the house. It was let and rates were paid as the house contained some of our furniture. (GWB, Pontypool).

For the capital gains tax exemption to apply it is normally necessary that a property has actually been used as the owner's main residence for the full period of ownership. There is an exception where the individual has been prevented from using his property as his main residence because of the place of his work. This exemption may apply for years a period of up to four years (see the Inland Revenue booklet CGT8, paragraphs 64-66). But it is only possible to take advantage of this provision where the property has previously been used as the owner's main residence.

There is a further exception to the general rule, in that an employee who lives in job-related accommodation may obtain the exemption or, alternatively, the exemption may apply even though the property is never in fact occupied as such, provided that the intention can be clearly demonstrated. Unfortunately, this exception to the general rule applies only to employees and not to self-employed persons.

It would seem, therefore, that you will not qualify for any exemption since you have



Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

not used the property as a residence. Other readers in a similar position should seek professional advice. A recent High Court case concerned a publican who bought a house which he furnished and visited for a few days each month. It was held that the house constituted his main residence, notwithstanding that he lived for the greater part of his time at the public house. The case is that of Frost v Feltham and it is relevant both for capital gains tax and also in connection with relief for mortgage interest.

Where a person acquires a property for his retirement and actually lives there, he should consider giving notice to the Inland Revenue that the property should be treated as his main residence. There is a two-year time limit for this election. An election may still be appropriate even though an individual owns only one of the two or more properties at which he lives.

I am an owner-occupier of a house that has a garden and paddock attached, making up an area of some two acres. Should I sell to a builder part of the grounds? Would I be liable to pay tax on the proceeds? Should I get one or

more houses built on the grounds on my account, for sale? Would I have to pay tax on proceeds? (PJ, Glasgow).

There is an exemption from both capital gains tax and development land tax purposes, for an individual's main residence together with land not exceeding one acre or such larger area as is required for the "reasonable enjoyment of the property". The trouble is that this phrase is nowhere defined and there have as yet been few decided cases on the point.

The Revenue will often argue that if an individual sells part of the land attached to his residence, and remains in occupation, the land sold will be required for the reasonable enjoyment of the property. The Revenue will argue that the fact that the individual continues to reside in the property is *prima facie* evidence that the land retained is all that is required. However, this does not take account of the fact that an individual's needs change over the years—in my view a paddock might be required for the reasonable enjoyment of the property, for example where the owner has a daughter with a horse, but this land may be surplus to requirements once the owner's family has grown up and left home.

This is rather a grey area—from a tax point of view the only safe course of action is to dispose of the entire property. A sale of land either before or after the owner ceases to reside in the property may be subject to Capital Gains Tax.

If you have houses built on your land you may be subject to income tax on the development profit. Unless you originally acquired the property with the intention of realizing a gain, the amount chargeable to income tax should not exceed this development profit.

This is a complex area (we have previously mentioned development land tax) and you would be well advised to take professional advice.

NEW

Confidence up again

Treasury forecasts recovery

Business survey shows optimism

ECONOMY ON THE UP TURN

Inflation hits a two-year low of 11.7 per cent

Inflation slows to 11.7 per cent

Signs of UK recovery now apparent, Commission says

Upturn in demand

Economic recovery forecast next year

Why you should invest now in RECOVERY

First public offer of National Westminster Recovery Trust

The prospects for recovery.

The past year has seen growing fears about the effects of the recession upon major industrial companies. Few in 1981 will report earnings increases and in many cases dividends will be reduced. The very survival of some basic industries is still questioned.

However, the UK equity market has remained relatively resilient, although still historically undervalued, over the past two years despite a background of worsening recession. Evidence suggests that the recession may be levelling out.

Some key economic indicators have turned in a favourable direction:

- * minimum lending rate has declined from its peak of 17%
- * inflation has fallen substantially from its May 1980 peak of 21.7% to around 12%
- * de-stocking appears to have slowed
- * wage settlements are generally running lower than the rate of inflation, especially in the private sector
- * a lower sterling value has brought some relief to export-oriented manufacturers
- * short term oil price stability has resulted from the OPEC meeting in May

The easing of these pressures on companies together with a gradual recovery in the world economy gives signs of some pickup in activity during late 1981 and 1982. This improvement should provide interesting investment opportunities in individual companies over the longer term.

The new National Westminster Recovery Trust

The recessionary period provides an excellent opportunity to launch the new Nat West Recovery Trust.

Investing in companies which have experienced difficult trading circumstances can prove to be most rewarding not only in terms of increasing share prices but also in takeover activity. The depth of the current recession should continue to provide many favourable investment opportunities. These will occur in companies where shares are depressed by technical factors or current trading difficulties, and also where takeovers or mergers occur as financially strong companies seek to expand their existing activities by acquisition. Opportunities may also occur for the Managers to take advantage of certain overseas recovery situations.

The primary aim of the new Nat West Recovery Trust is to provide long term capital growth. This can be achieved through selective investment in shares of companies, both in the UK and overseas, which are believed to be temporarily undervalued, and specifically those with recovery potential after a period of relative weakness. Companies which have performed poorly can currently be clearly identified in the capital and retail sectors. Income performance is expected to be erratic, at least in the early stages, and is not considered as a major investment objective.

A proven record: Investment Management by County Bank.

The fund will be professionally managed by County Bank, the wholly owned merchant banking subsidiary of the National Westminster Bank Group. County Bank has a highly successful track record through its active direction of investment, pension and unit trust funds, and currently has over £2 billion under its management.

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Simply fill in the coupon below, or alternatively take it to any branch of National Westminster Bank. The minimum investment is £500. This is

equivalent to 1,000 units in the trust at the price of 50.0p. This price is fixed until 25 July 1981 for new applications.

Distribution of income from units (which should be regarded initially as of secondary priority for such a trust) may be re-invested into the trust. In view of the specialised nature of this trust which aims primarily for capital appreciation, the Managers recommend to investors that income distributions should be automatically re-invested in the trust.

You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

Additional information.

Applications will not be acknowledged but certificates will be issued within 42 days. Distributions of net income will be made half yearly on 28 February and 28 August. The first distribution of income for investments made now will be on 28 February 1982. The offer price of 50p per unit gives an estimated gross starting yield of £5.375p p.a. (This is equivalent to a net yield of £4.08p p.a.).

After the close of this offer, units can always be bought at the prevailing offer price. The current offer and bid prices and estimated gross yield will be published daily in the press. If you wish, you can buy units through your own bank stockbroker, solicitor or accountant. Remuneration is payable to qualified agents and the rates are available on request. The offer price of units includes an initial charge of 5%. Thereafter a half yearly charge of 0.375% plus VAT of the value of the Trust is deducted from the gross income of the Trust to cover administration costs, although the Trust Deed permits this to be increased to 0.5% + VAT. To sell units simply return your certificate(s) duly endorsed and you will receive the cash value within 10 days, based on the bid price ruling on the day of receipt.

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Town & City loss down to £11m

By Peter Wainwright

Town & City Properties, the debt-burdened property group which Mr Jeffrey Sterling, chairman, has been steering back to profits since 1974 when the whole sector crashed, still has several years of losses before it.

High interest rates swelled pretax losses from £7.57m to £7.75m in the six months to last September but over the full year to March 24 they fell from £14.4m to £11m after an increase in net interest payable from £28.7m to £29m. A notional dividend of 0.61p a share serving the group's trustees status absorbs only £25,000.

The chairman reports that borrowings fell during the year from £192m to £177.3m, before deducting cash and deposits of £3.8m. Sales of property amount-

ed to £28m, against a book value of £20m. Since the end of the year a further £8m worth, with a book value of £5.6m, has either been sold or soon will be.

Since April 1, 1974, Town & City has sold £409m of property with a book value of £371m. Mr Sterling comments: "The market not only remains strong, but seems to be becoming wider than it has been for some years, and there are a considerable number of sales in progress."

The accounts contain a projection of annual reversionary rental income increases. The years 1982 to 1986 show rental increases of £1.5m, £2.0m, £1.5m, £1.4m and £1.5m respectively.

These figures are higher than indicated last year, save for 1984 where the projection has come down from £1.7m to £1.5m.

How quickly Town & City reaches break-even depends on interest rates, and variable-rate borrowings came down last year from £67.5m to £50.5m. It looks as if profits are some years away and the group makes no forecast. Every 1 per cent cut in Minimum Lending Rate is worth £1m.

In property development this year was a busy one with five projects starting construction, and a further five are to start soon. Preliminary forward sales and project managing minimize risk. The chairman says the results in the next two years should show a sharp improvement. But once again there is no valuation of properties.

Chloride in talks for part sale of SA offshoot

Chloride, the battery group, has announced that it may sell part of its 70 per cent stake in Chloride S.A. — its profitable South African subsidiary — to wire rope maker Haggle, which may also offer to buy the publicly owned minority.

Chloride aims to cut its borrowings. Last month it revealed a £22.5m net loss for 1980-81 and a surprise £17.3m rights issue to bolster its balance sheet.

Chloride intends to keep more than 50 per cent of Chloride S.A., which is valued at about £13m with its shares suspended on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

It made £1.9m pretax profit in the year to March 31 and has net assets of £10m.

Insurances advance in thin trade

Equities ended the first leg of the two week account on a relatively firm note yesterday. Special situations again dominated much of the attention in a thin market, with Wembleton and the second test again providing a distraction.

However, the FT index, after being 0.6 lower at 10 am, closed 2.1 higher at 468.0, making a rise on the account so far of 7.1.

Insurances again drew support amid talk of a dawn raid on Commercial Union, up 9p at 179p, and still benefiting from the prospect of a weaker pound. Meanwhile, GEC moved ahead 17p to 760p after further consideration of Thursday's impressive profits surge, but the rest of the electrical sector continued to encounter profit making.

Shares of Burton were suspended as shareholders awaited the outcome of the action group's claim for over £1,000m from the Bank of England. The claim was later rejected by the High Court and after an initial market shock, the shares recovered to close unchanged at 134p.

Government securities were clearly upset by the Government's introduction of a new £1,000m index-linked 2 per cent 2006 stock. Dealers reported nervous selling after hours which pushed prices 1/4 to 1/2 lower in longer, with shorts around 1/4 lower, but sympathy. This was in spite of reassurances from the United States government of lower interest rates.

Glaxo was the big feature in this market, jumping 18p to 386p in a thin market on prospects for its latest drug and comment

Stock markets

on increased earnings from the lower pound.

But the knock-on effect was minimal with scattered gains of just a few pence here and there. Unilever hardened 2p to 890p, British Aerospace 1p to 235p, Hawker Siddeley 2p to 336p, and BOC International 1p to 132p.

Elsewhere, Beechams lost 1p to 225p, and Bax 2p to 174p. GKN was 5p lighter at 142p, reportedly suffering from its need for overseas raw materials and the weak pound.

Wm Collins showed a disappointment at the latest terms from News International which was unchanged at 113p. Collins ordinary slipped 5p to 228p with the "A" listed at 160p. Speculative attention lifted International Paint, 4p to 151p, John Mowlem, 4p to 163p, Stewart Plastics 18p to 152p, European Ferries 5p to 85p, British 7p to 455p and Edgars 5p to 59p, while De La Rue rose 28p to 740p in a thin market. But Sumrie fell 5p to 55p, disappointed by the news that Leeds businessman, Mr Harvey Michael Ross, had reduced his stake.

A return to profits boosted Geo. Bassett 8p to 70p and W. Goodkind improved 2 1/2p to 47p after figures well in properties Town & City put on 3 1/2p at 504p after reduced losses.

Still reflecting recent profits news, Granada slipped 2p to 227p, but Astra rallied 7p to 229p. Awaiting trading news soon, John Waddington rose 4p to 126p, Mercantile House 10p to 858p, International Timber 4p to 95p and Intasun 3p to 74p, but Associated Newspapers lost another 3p to 228p.

The continuing fall in demand and the looming threat of a price war led brewery shares in the doldrums. Allied slipped 1 1/2p to 73 1/2p, Whitbread 6p to 215p, and Bass 5p to 231p. Breweries jumped 3p to 343p.

But the Chancellor's increased levy on tobacco and gaming produced further mark-downs. Rothmans International after 4p to 74p, Imperial Group 2p to 69p, and Ladbroke 4p to 160p, but Associated Leisure was unchanged at 116p, after 114p.

Oil remained neglected owing to the latest round of price cuts with the majors meeting the brunt of the selling. BP closed 6p lower at 310p with Shell 4p cheaper at 360p. Among secondaries, Berkeley Exploration put on 5p to 368p, but the market newcomer, KCA, Drilling, lost another 3p to 79p, leaving a discount over the official price of 15p.

Insurances remained buoyant with further consideration over

the weak pound, asset values and takeover possibilities. Eagle Share rose 10p to 327p, Royal 7p to 393p, General Accident 8p to 346p, Sun Alliance 14p to 829p, and Pearl 12p to 426p. Insurance broker Minet Holdings rose 4p to 138p, comforted by trebled profits.

Banks resumed their recent progress with Barclays adding 3p to 414p, Lloyds 2p to 400p, and National Westminster 5p to 400p in spite of news of planned redundancies.

Properties featured strong support for Berkeley Hamble, 16p higher at 288p. Equity turnover on July 2 was £11,137m (15,654 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Financial Times, were: Commercial Union, GEC, Plessey, European Ferries, Imperial Group, Eagle Star, Berkeley Hamble, Hambro Life, De Rue, Dowry, Glaxo and Pearl Assurance.

Traditional options saw calls in Western Areas on 28p, FNFC on 34p, Courtauld on 6p and a put was arranged in W. Goodkind on 5p.

Traded options: Dealers reported increased inquiry, with 1,629 contracts recorded. Bid hopes produced 644 calls for Commercial Union, with GEC installing 286 after recent figures.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	Per share	Pence	date	total
Geo. Bassett (F)	63.1 (3.95)	0.76 (1.22)	1.57 (3.8)	1.57 (3.8)	—	1.57 (3.8)
Russell Bros. (F)	1.7 (1.32)	0.08 (0.008)	7.05 (0.75)	3.6 (3.6)	—	4.87 (4.87)
Town & City Prop. (F)	—	11.63 (14.38)	2.3 (2.8)	0.01 (0.01)	—	0.01 (0.01)

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. — Loss.

Geo-Bassett Holdings

The Allsort Man strides back into profit

It seemed last year that the recession really had reached the very lowest depths when even that humble traditional British product—the liquorice Allsort Man—fell out of favour with his public.

But, by a remarkable feat of recovery, the Allsort Man is comfortably back in his stride, and earning the position he has had, even through the recession, confidently striding the globe on the annual report of his benefactor, sweetmaker Geo. Bassett Holdings.

For Bassett, the Sheffield-based sugar confectionery group, yesterday reported a swing in its fortunes which turned last year's losses into profits of £765,000. This owes as much to the character and popularity of its leading man as to the strength and determination of Bassett's management team.

Only last year the group lost £1.3m in 12 months to April 30, 1980, and embarked on £1.3m in 1979, and embarked on a strict reorganization programme. Fundamentally, Allsorts were still popular with home consumers but losing its market share overseas. At the time it blamed losses on foreign



The Allsort Man and his fezzed admirer, Mr William Mills, chairman of Geo Bassett Holdings.



from £63.9m last time to £68.3m this year. Sugar confectionery took £52m, and exports some £8m of the total. Trading profits from sweets went from £221,000 last time to £1.8m.

"We have cut costs like crazy over the last 15 months," added Mr Clemens, "but the group will not be satisfied until it returns to at least profit levels of three years ago". Then the group was bringing in some £3m a year. "Our market share has been held despite industry's 2 per cent decline," he added.

Borrowings at the year end were down from £6m to £4.5m, and interest charges were similar at £1.2m, and should fall this year.

Other measures included a new sales team brought in just to market its products within supermarkets and grocery stores. The new jumbo pack of Allsorts sweets—mainly for motorway trade—are one such example. Bassett thinks the team has been extremely effective and continues its drive to sell aggressively.

Plans are now for television advertising to strengthen the Allsort Man sales.

Margreta Pagano

Sale discussions at York Trailer

By Catherine Gynn

Mr Frederick Davies, chairman of both the loss-making York Trailer Holdings and its Canadian parent, York Transport, is negotiating the sale of York Transport's 60 per cent stake in its British subsidiary. The shares were suspended at 14p yesterday pending the outcome of the negotiations.

If they lead to the sale of the 60 per cent stake in York Trailer, an equivalent offer for the rest of the shares would be required under Rule 34 of the Takeover Panel's regulations. At the suspension price the group is worth £15.4m, but the

net asset value was £4m at the December 31 year-end. A spokesman for Phillips & Drew, York Trailer's broker, yesterday said it was unclear whether Mr Davies was negotiating with one of more potential buyers.

York Trailer announced that the stake was up for sale and several approaches are believed to have been received since then. Demand for trailers was virtually nonexistent last year and York Trailer lost nearly £2m pre-tax in the year to December 31, 1980, and paid

no dividends. Since then the group's position has apparently improved but it is not clear whether break-even point has been reached yet.

If the Government changes the maximum weight allowed on British roads from the present limit to something approaching the Continental limit of 40 tonnes per vehicle, demand for new, larger trailers could pick up.

In the meantime York Trailer's markets remain tough. At the end of June it suspended payment of its preference dividend.

Minet jumps in first quarter

Minet, the insurance brokers, yesterday reported pretax profits ahead at £1.18m, against £394,000 last time for the first quarter to March 31.

But the board is keen to point out that since business is not evenly spread throughout the year, the results for a single quarter should not be taken as a guide for what may be expected for a full year. In the last full year Minet recorded pretax profits of £8.6m on turnover of £35.25m.

Turnover in the first quarter is slightly ahead at £7.8m, against £7.38m.

Heron Corp rises 24 pc

Motor and property group Heron Corporation, which owns 67 per cent of the Heron Motor Group, yesterday announced a 24 per cent rise in pretax profits to £13.4m for the year to March 31.

Property and trading interests were restructured during the year, putting all the British and continental property interests into Heron Property, while the British service stations and vehicle interests, including Heron Motor and a part of Heron Trading Corporation, were revalued, producing a £45m surplus over book value and boosting net assets to £135m. Heron is now seeing cash flow from its US oil and gas interests.

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1980/81	High	Low	Company	Price	Chg	%	P/E	Yield
76	39	Airsprung Group	68	—	4.7	6.9	10.8	14.9
82	21	Armstrong & Rhodes	47	—	1.4	3.8	19.3	44.8
200	924	Barracuda	209	—	4.9	7.5	12.8	—
104	88	Deborah Services	108	—	5.5	5.5	5.0	9.4
126	88	Frank Horrell	102	—	6.4	6.3	3.2	5.9
110	39	Frederick Parker	65	—	1.7	2.6	26.3	—
110	64	George Blair	64	—	3.1	4.8	—	—
113	59	Jackson Group	113	—	7.0	6.2	3.6	8.0
130	103	James Burrough	130	—	8.7	6.7	9.5	11.9
334	244	Robert Jenkins	314	—	81.3	10.0	—	—
55	50	Sermons "A"	55	—	1.3	9.5	8.6	8.0
224	196	Torrey Limited	197	—	15.1	7.7	7.6	13.0
23	8	Twinstock Ord	15	—	15.0	19.0	—	—
50	60	Twinstock 15% ULS	70	—	3.0	7.5	6.2	9.8
56	35	Walter Alexander	82	—	5.7	5.6	5.6	9.0
263	181	W. S. Yates	268	—	13.1	5.3	4.7	9.6

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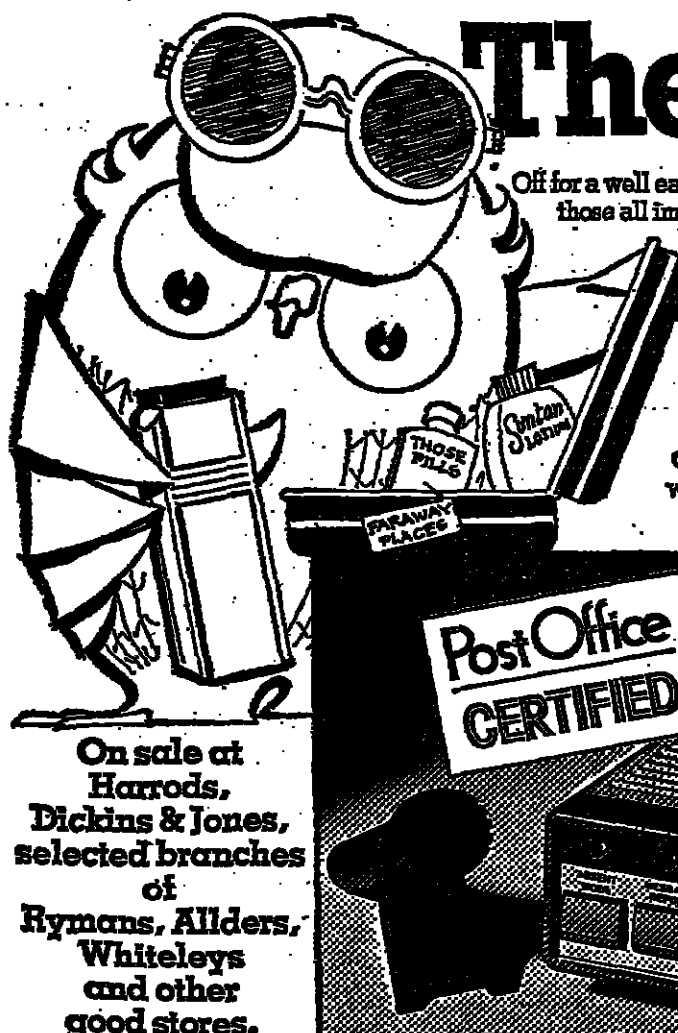
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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Briefly

Diamond Shamrock Europe: A meeting of holders of the £1.18m 1980/81 warrant debenture on July 27/28 to consider and approve an arrangement to repay the debenture at 95 per cent of its nominal value together with accrued interest. Only one Crown House and its subsidiaries now hold 4.25m (99.01 per cent).

Vesper Hovermarine: Vesper says that following its purchase on December 31, 1979 of 51 per cent of the issued ordinary share capital of Vesper Hovermarine, it has now acquired the remaining 49 per cent in satisfaction of its claim against Hovermarine Corporation and its subsidiaries. The purchase and sale agreement.

Inchcape Berhad (Incorporated in Singapore) has announced to the stock exchanges in Singapore and Malaysia that its profits for 1981 will be lower than those of the previous year. It has also announced that it has agreed with the Malaysian Capital Issues Committee to postpone the proposed issue of new shares to a later date. The announcement was made on May 29. Inchcape & Co., London, owns 63.3 per cent of the equity of Inchcape Berhad.

Russell Brothers (Paddington): Turnover for year to February 28, 1981, £1.7m (£1.32m). Profits, after tax, £51,000 (loss £5,000 last year). Dividend held at 6.5p gross.

Caparo Industries has sold its subsidiary, Kirby, Bedford, for £50,000 cash. A deferred payment of £109,000 is also payable. A. Brown and Sons, Sonashaw, monthly over the next two years. Securities has confirmed the offer for 20 per cent of the ordinary capital is now unconditional, having received 33,252 shares for 33,252 shares (10.4 per cent).

Irish Pharmaceuticals: Sales for six months to end-December, 1980, £154,000 (£141,000 last year). Less attributable: £553,000 (£32,000). Keynote, London (subsidiary of Courmoult), turnover for 1980 £21.2m (£19m). Pre-tax profit £1.73m (£1.5m). EPS 7.05p (6.57p). Dividend, 10p gross (equal to 1.02p).

Williamson Tea Holdings has agreed with directors of Borealis Tea Holdings on terms for acquisition by Williamson of balance of issued share capital of Borealis not already owned. Williamson owns 210,000 ordinary (75.47 per cent).

"The Times" Vener: Chairman hopes results in current year will show and confirm that the company has an early return to dividend declarations will be possible.

Memec offer is 58 times oversubscribed

The basis of allotment of the offer for sale of shares in Memec-Memory and Electronic Components—was announced yesterday by Charterhouse Japanese. The offer, of 3.75 million shares at 140p each, attracted about 64,000 applications for 217.22 million shares, meaning that investors put up £304m. So, the offer was almost 58 times oversubscribed.

The basis of allotment is as follows: applications from the public for 100 to 7,000 shares, a weighted ballot for 100 shares; 7,500 to 17,500 shares, 200 shares; 18,000 shares and above, about 1.8 per cent of the number applied for.

Nissan issue is unlikely in July

A convertible note issue by Nissan Motor which has been planned for private placement on the Swiss capital market for some time, is unlikely to materialize this month, banking sources reported in Zurich.

Rights issue at EGIS after full-year loss

Edinburgh General Insurance Services lost £214,000 before tax in the year to December 31, 1980, against profits of £109,000 in 1979. However, it is asking shareholders for £507,000 by way of a one-for-two rights issue of 2.8m shares at 18p each. The net proceeds will be £286,000. EGIS has paid no dividends since 1976 but after the acquisition of insurance broker Andrew & Booth for 13.3m shares it plans to pay 1.43p gross on the enlarged capital this year. Negotiations to acquire Andrew & Booth have just been completed.

Hambros Bank will place 6.25m of the shares issued to the vendors, on their behalf, at 18p. Andrew & Booth is 51 per cent owned by Mr. Alistair Wallace, a director of EGIS. The vendors have warranted that Andrew & Booth will make no less than £500,000 net in 1981, against £417,000 last year.

The issue, of up to 200m francs (about £54m), will not be priced on July 14, contrary to earlier reports, a spokesman for the prospective lead manager, Swiss Bank Corp., said.

Nissan continues to monitor the Swiss capital market carefully, but the involvement of the Nissan president in negotiations between the Japanese car manufacturer's parent and foreign governments has, together with other factors, delayed the project, the spokesman added.

Toshiba expects small rise in net income

Toshiba Corp said in Tokyo that it expects its consolidated net income for the year ending March 31 next to rise slightly to about £2,000m yen (about £122m) from £1,700m yen in the preceding year.

Toshiba bases this on its belief that sales of heavy electrical machinery, communications

equipment and electronic appliances will continue to increase, more than offsetting expected poor sales of electrical home appliances after the cool summer.

Toshiba, earlier reported a 10.7 per cent rise in consolidated net income in the year ended last March to 50,170m yen.

Tate & Lyle's £1m Canadian sale

Tate and Lyle has sold to Canadian Pacific of Montreal the outstanding 50 per cent interest it held in Unimark of Montreal for £1.1m (about £1.1m) cash. As a result of the acquisition, the name of Unimark has been changed to Intermark Inc.

Half-time drop at Eldridge, Pope

In its latest interim report, for the half-year to March 31, Porchester-based brewer Eldridge, Pope, tells shareholders

that the company's pre-tax profit of £67,000 and had net tangible assets of £128,000. The directors of Logfires have forecast pre-tax profits of not less than £200,000 for 1981.

Euroflame buys woodstove company

Euroflame Holding has entered into a conditional agreement to buy Logfires (Woodstoves) for £750,000. Logfires makes and markets a wide range of solid fuel burning appliances.

In 1980 Logfires made a pre-tax profit of £67,000 and had net tangible assets of £128,000. The directors of Logfires have forecast pre-tax profits of not less than £200,000 for 1981.

Commodities

COPPER was steady. Afternoon: Cash, 1980-81, 100 lb, 100.00; 1981-82, 100 lb, 100.00; 1982-83, 100 lb, 100.00; 1983-84, 100 lb, 100.00; 1984-85, 100 lb, 100.00; 1985-86, 100 lb, 100.00; 1986-87, 100 lb, 100.00; 1987-88, 100 lb, 100.00; 1988-89, 100 lb, 100.00; 1989-90, 100 lb, 100.00; 1990-91, 100 lb, 100.00; 1991-92, 100 lb, 100.00; 1992-93, 100 lb, 100.00; 1993-94, 100 lb, 100.00; 1994-95, 100 lb, 100.00; 1995-96, 100 lb, 100.00; 1996-97, 100 lb, 100.00; 1997-98, 100 lb, 100.00; 1998-99, 100 lb, 100.00; 1999-00, 100 lb, 100.00; 2000-01, 100 lb, 100.00; 2001-02, 100 lb, 100.00; 2002-03, 100 lb, 100.00; 2003-04, 100 lb, 100.00; 2004-05, 100 lb, 100.00; 2005-06, 100 lb, 100.00; 2006-07, 100 lb, 100.00; 2007-08, 100 lb, 100.00; 2008-09, 100 lb, 100.00; 2009-10, 100 lb, 100.00; 2010-11, 100 lb, 100.00; 2011-12, 100 lb, 100.00; 2012-13, 100 lb, 100.00; 2013-14, 100 lb, 100.00; 2014-15, 100 lb, 100.00; 2015-16, 100 lb, 100.00; 2016-17, 100 lb, 100.00; 2017-18, 100 lb, 100.00; 2018-19, 100 lb, 100.00; 2019-20, 100 lb, 100.00; 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Gormley accuses Heseltine in Belvoir dispute

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor, Jersey

A political storm broke yesterday over the proposed Vale of Belvoir coalfield with Miners' leader Mr Joseph Gormley accusing Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for the Environment, of "bloody duplicity".

The row followed a leak to the National Union of Mineworkers of a document said to be a confidential Cabinet paper disclosing that Mr Heseltine had overruled a report from his departmental inspector and recommended that the Leicestershire development should be shelved.

Mr Gormley said that the minister had written to him on June 29 saying that it was impossible to give any indication of what his decision was likely to be.

Yet, he said, a paper for the Cabinet's economic committee, apparently written in April, showed that Mr Heseltine had already made up his mind to recommend to fellow ministers that the coal board application should not be permitted.

The document, which the NUM was distributing freely in photocopy form here yesterday, is said to record the Environment Secretary's preliminary conclusion that NCB plans to develop 500 million tonnes of coal at three new mines ought not to be allowed "at least at the present time".

Mr Heseltine is quoted as saying in the document: "I am far from convinced that there will be a market for the coal if the development is allowed to go ahead, and without the reasonable prospect of such a market I can see no reason to allow such damage to the Vale of Belvoir."

In his private letter to Mr Gormley, the minister says: "These are complex and important issues, which occupied the public inquiry for over six months, and which now require the most careful consideration in the light of the inspector's report."

"I will give my decision as soon as possible, but, in the meantime, I am sure you will understand that it is impossible for me to provide any indication of what that decision is likely to be."

Accusing Mr Heseltine of "bloody duplicity", Mr Gormley said: "I think it is complete hypocrisy to deal with issues in that way. In the letter, he indicated he had not made a decision. The Cabinet economic committee is expected to consider

the Environment Secretary's report next Thursday. Mr Gormley said: "We will be saying quite forcibly to him that they should take no notice of this report. They should take notice of the inspector's report."

The NUM executive has taken the unusual step of tabling its own emergency motion for the union's policy-making conference, which is being held in Jersey, and it will be discussed on Wednesday. It views with concern the rejection of the application and "condemns the duplicity of the Secretary of State for the Environment over this matter."

According to the union, Mr Heseltine's Cabinet paper says: "The Vale of Belvoir is a prosperous and largely unspoiled area of high quality farmland, a valuable productive area of mixed livestock and arable farming, one of whose products is Siltton cheese."

"It is also a tranquil and pleasant area, which is important to the East Midlands, a region not well endowed with attractive areas of countryside."

"It is clear that continuing would totally change the character of the area. The main impact of the proposed development on the local environment would be:

1. The spoil tips at the three mines requiring 21 square miles of land; one tip would be 2 miles long and 100 feet high;
2. The mine buildings: these would include winding towers up to 190 feet high and massive coal processing buildings;
3. Subsidence over 4,000 properties in the area, including 414 listed buildings, would be affected and some would be undermined four times as separate seams are worked;
4. Housing and associated facilities for miners and their families: an extra 5,000 new dwellings;
5. Road traffic: the village of Bingham, for example, would endure 120 lorry movements a day;
6. The construction and operation of new railway lines;
7. Noise: the daytime noise level would be approximately equivalent of road traffic noise sufficient to render houses eligible for insulation."

Asked about the document released by the miners' union, a spokesman for the Department of the Environment last night said: "We know this document is wrong. It is wrong round the country, but we cannot confirm or deny it."



Fury and drama of the world's most exciting horse race

Thundering horseflesh but not exactly the Derby... the scene is Siena, Italy, and the going is hard as the contestants in the July Palio urge their mounts in a race that goes back centuries. The riders race bareback under rules that were laid down in 1636 and for just one minute the excitement is barely

controllable and greater than in any other race in the world. Strong men are known to weep in their fervour at this most ancient of contests.

The course is the *Campo*, the great square of Siena bounded on one side by the old governmental building, the Palazzo Pubblico, and filled to capacity;

the prize is the *Palio*, a silken banner painted by artists invited to compete for the honour by the city authorities.

For that one minute of frantic exultation the city spends a year in preparation. The 17 *contrade* or areas of the city enter a horse for the *Palio*, one of two a year, and in July

dedicated to the Madonna of Provenzano, a miraculous appearance associated with civic revival; rivalry is intense and after the race culminates in a banquet for the winning *contrade* at which the horse takes the head of the table.

Apart from the race itself the occasion enables Siena to demonstrate its flair for

re-enacting the full brilliance of medieval pageantry. As a prelude the horses are blessed by a priest and annointed with holy water and are then swept into a sea of knights, pages, trumpeters, drummers and mace-bearers. For a few precious hours history comes alive.

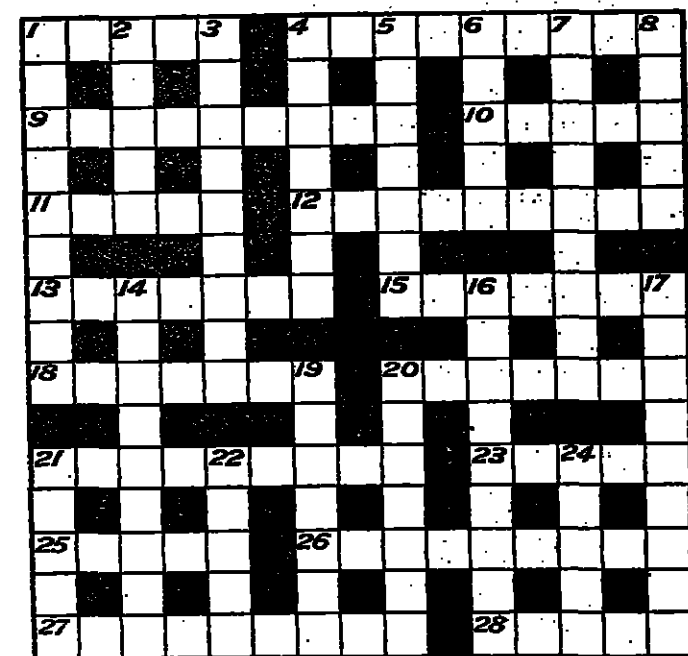
Picture by Times staff photographer Brian Harris

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

The Times Crossword No. 15,569

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9TT. The winner and solution will be published next Saturday. The winner of last Saturday's competition is Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Adams, 43, The Avenue, Welwyn, Herts.

Name
Address



- ACROSS**
- 1 Restrains his Excellency as an author (5).
 - 2 Toga's yob, for instance (4-5).
 - 3 Wretched paper-back got given the wreath (9).
 - 4 A scarecrow—note, in a trunk (1).
 - 5 Those worn in Scotland can't be fakes (5).
 - 6 Teacher being one caring to disperse it (9).
 - 7 Many with cause to burn brown coal (7).
 - 8 Dead men in drains (7).
 - 9 Sky's air swirls round another Hebridean isle (7).
 - 10 Pathfinder—one employed in bridge support (7).
 - 11 Bit of a blow for Lady Luck, we'd say (8).
 - 12 Simple one in the plot (5).
 - 13 Giving you an unusual liquor (5).
 - 14 Disappear when girl begins to quiver to speak (8).
 - 15 Composer's found in ruined shed, strapped up (9).
 - 16 Can it be bitter? Course it can be (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Game beauty, holding a gun (5).
 - 2 There's a difference between numbers fore and aft (5).
 - 3 Comedy hit to become a fixture (8).
 - 4 Discharge young lady rising—wrong hour for it (7).
 - 5 About a study on church rhythm (7).
 - 6 Neither loose nor tight (5).
 - 7 One of Coward's mid-day sleepers (9).
 - 8 The clergyman's lot in a single benefice (5).
 - 9 Winner, about to speak with one who contradicts (8).
 - 10 Ridiculous love, in store, getting ring—it's all up (4-5).
 - 11 'Tis a school needed, not broken (9).
 - 12 Such Americans ask for no uplift (7).
 - 13 With schoolwork, help is needed first (7).
 - 14 March of Time? (5).
 - 15 On which we enjoy free drinks (5).
 - 16 Vigilant in a watch (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 15,568

Solution to Prize Puzzle No 15,563

Today's events

The Queen attends picnic sponsored by Cancer Research Campaign, Windsor Great Park, 2.45.

The Prince of Wales, Chancellor of the University of Wales, presides at honorary degree ceremony, Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff, 9.45.

The Duke of Kent, president of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, attend Wimbledon championship, 12.15.

Picture Frame Sale, Chelsea School of Art, Manresa Road, 10 to 5.30.

Picnic in aid of Cancer Research Campaign, Windsor Great Park, 11 to 5 (Sunday, 11 to 5).

South London Extravaganza organized by local scout groups, Streatham Common, 12 to 5.

Brazilian training ship *Castello de Mello* berthed alongside HMS *Belcher* by Tower Bridge, open to public 1 to 4.30 (also Sunday).

Margaret Drabble lays wreath at memorial stone to George Eliot, Poets Corner, Westminster Abbey, 6.

1981 Unipart National Scoutcar Races, The Hoe, Plymouth, 9.30.

Red Cross festival of disabled people, Lancing, 10.30 to 4.30.

Sanskritik Festival, Centre of Indian Arts, 8 South Andley Street, 11.

Talks, lectures

Jaa van Eyck, Andrew Tyndall: National Gallery, 12.10 to 1.30.

Canadian actor, talks about his life and career with David Cairns, St. Paul's, 12.10 to 1.30.

Wardrobe Room, The Old House, 6.15, Malvern, South Africa's black ally, Africa, Centre, 38 King Street, 2.30. Film: *Life That Lies on Men*, National History Museum, 8, The Newcomen, in engine and its impact, Science Museum, 3.

Exhibitions

Stringed Instruments by young British makers, The Old House, London End, Malvern, 12.10 to 1.30.

Regent's Canal, 2.30.

Literary London, St Paul's station, 2 pm.

The Pound

	Bank	Bank
	buys	sells
Australia \$	1.71	1.64
Austria Sch	33.70	31.60
Belgium Fr	89.50	76.50
Canada \$	2.33	2.24
Denmark Kr	14.80	14.10
Finland Mk	8.80	8.40
France Fr	11.15	10.65
Germany DM	4.72	4.48
Greece Dr	112.00	106.00
Hong Kong \$	10.90	10.40
Ireland P	1.25	1.19
Italy L	220.00	210.00
Japan Yn	454.00	428.00
Netherlands Gld	5.24	4.98
Norway Kr	11.87	11.27
Portugal Esc	125.50	117.50
Spain Ptas	164.50	157.50
Sweden Kr	10.05	9.54
Switzerland Fr	4.07	3.85
USA \$	2.25	2.15
Yugoslavia Dnr	72.00	67.00

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as supplied by Reuters. Differentials rates international currency changes and other foreign currency markets.

London: FT Index rose 2.1 to 548.0.

\$250,000 winner

The winning number for the \$250,000 prize in the July Premium Savings Bonds draw is 28 2 14842 (winner comes from Middleburgh).

Tomorrow's events

London Irish Festival Roundwood Park, Willesden, 10.30 to 7.

Turks and Tomahawks: celebration in honour of Captain John Smith and the Virginia settlers, St Mary's Church, Lambeth Road, 11 to 6.

Antiques fair, Kensington Hilton Hotel, Holland Park Avenue, 11 to 6.

Record collectors fair, Ivanhoe Hotel, Bloomsbury Street, 1 to 6.

Garden party: Meet the poets, Linton Kwei Johnson, Roger McGough, Dannie Abse and others, Earls Court Square, 4.30 to 6.

Sporting fixtures

Tennis: Wimbledon, men's singles final, 2.

Cricket: Second Test, England v Australia, at Lord's, 11.30 to 6.20.

County championships: 11.0 to 5.30: Derbyshire v Worcestershire, at Chesterfield; Hampshire v Nottinghamshire, at Bourne; Lancashire v Leicestershire, at Leicester; Northamptonshire v Glamorgan, at Northampton; Sussex v Gloucestershire, at Hove; Warwickshire v Essex, at Birmingham; Yorkshire v Surrey, at Harrogate. Other matches: Ireland v Middlesex, in Dublin.

Football: John Player League, 7.45 to 9.15: Luton v Notts, at Luton; Notts v Notts, at Notts; Notts v Notts, at Notts.

Other matches: Notts v Notts, at Notts; Notts v Notts, at Notts; Notts v Notts, at Notts.

Sport on TV

BBC1: 11.25 Cricket, 1.30 to 6.20, 2.55 Wimbledon highlights; 9.55 to 11.00, 11.00 to 11.55, 11.55 to 12.00, 12.00 to 12.15, 12.15 to 12.30, 12.30 to 12.45, 12.45 to 12.55, 12.55 to 1.00, 1.00 to 1.15, 1.15 to 1.30, 1.30 to 1.45, 1.45 to 1.55, 1.55 to 2.00, 2.00 to 2.15, 2.15 to 2.30, 2.30 to 2.45, 2.45 to 2.55, 2.55 to 3.00, 3.00 to 3.15, 3.15 to 3.30, 3.30 to 3.45, 3.45 to 3.55, 3.55 to 4.00, 4.00 to 4.15, 4.15 to 4.30, 4.30 to 4.45, 4.45 to 4.55, 4.55 to 5.00, 5.00 to 5.15, 5.15 to 5.30, 5.30 to 5.45, 5.45 to 5.55, 5.55 to 6.00, 6.00 to 6.15, 6.15 to 6.30, 6.30 to 6.45, 6.45 to 6.55, 6.55 to 7.00, 7.00 to 7.15, 7.15 to 7.30, 7.30 to 7.45, 7.45 to 7.55, 7.55 to 8.00, 8.00 to 8.15, 8.15 to 8.30, 8.30 to 8.45, 8.45 to 8.55, 8.55 to 9.00, 9.00 to 9.15, 9.15 to 9.30, 9.30 to 9.45, 9.45 to 9.55, 9.55 to 10.00, 10.00 to 10.15, 10.15 to 10.30, 10.30 to 10.45, 10.45 to 10.55, 10.55 to 11.00, 11.00 to 11.15, 11.15 to 11.30, 11.30 to 11.45, 11.45 to 11.55, 11.55 to 12.00, 12.00 to 12.15, 12.15 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